



**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.



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)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org

Table of Contents

Baby Corner Wish List	23
Baptisms	26
Bible Study News	26
Book Club Info	13
Calling All Angels	27
Christmas Fair News	20
Christmas Poinsettia Form	16
Christmas Wreath Form	17
Congregational Care	25
Cooke Tavern Soups	21
Directory Time Info	15
Flower Team News	13
“Footsteps in the Sand” Christian Renewal	18
Hanging of the Greens	18
Iceland Trip	22
Joy of Christmas	24
Ladies Fellowship Breakfast	19
Minister of Music Message	7
Moderators Message	5
Note of Thanks to Church Families	29
November Worship Preview	4
Open and Affirming News	10
Pastor’s Message	3
Prayer Shawl Ministry	14
Rummage Sale Thank You	28
Usher/Greeter Info	14
Vision & Mission Statement	1
Wallingford Community Dinners Info	12
Worship Ministry Team News	15
Youth Group News	8

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Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



A Note from the Pastor's Desk



“Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving and God’s courts with praise; give thanks to God, and praise God’s name.” Psalm 100:4

Without a doubt, Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday! It always has been. Growing up, I think it was my favorite holiday because it always meant good food and time with cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and of course my nuclear family. We always had great food, great conversations, and lots of love. I continued that tradition with my own children and every year family would gather for a long weekend of celebrating, my house overflowing with my parents, brothers, sisters, and their children. It was a time of great joy. Wonderful memories were made. But the food, the family, the laughter, and the fun, while predictable, were only a part of the celebration. Every year, as a delicious meal was prepared and served, we spent the beginning of each meal sharing our blessings, offering what we were grateful for. Sometimes it was predictable – gratitude for food, family, and a warm house. Other times it was more complex – gratitude for the life of a loved one who had passed; gratitude for healing from a serious accident or illness; gratitude for a new or unexpected opportunity; gratitude to have made it through another year. Gratitude is an attitude ingrained in me from a young age and one I have attempted to ingrain into my children. Even when things are tough, what do I have to be thankful for. When I had pneumonia right before Holy Week, I was thankful it was the week before so I could lead all of the Holy Week Services. When I had a stroke in June, I was grateful that the stroke impacted my mobility and not my ability to think or speak. When a foot crack sent me to the emergency room unable to walk, I was thankful it was a tear and a sprain and not a break requiring surgery. It has been a difficult year in many ways, but I have tried to approach the year with an attitude of gratitude. I have focused on what has been good about the year. The opportunity to serve a vital and interesting congregation. The opportunity to extend and receive care and compassion. The opportunity to wake up each day and see what God has in store. I have so many blessings, it’s hard to count them all. I pray you may be as blessed!

Pastor Meredith



November Worship Preview

November 5 – Reformation Sunday and Communion

It is a joy to welcome the Rev. Shawn Fiedler to our pulpit. (Please see his bio in a separate ONA article) We will celebrate The Reformation (the event that began to define Protestantism), sing Reformation hymns, and share in Holy Communion. Rev. Fiedler will share a compelling personal story as to why ONA is so important for churches to explore..

November 12 – Stewardship and You

The Rev. David Clever Bartholomew, Director of Stewardship and Donor Relations for the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ will offer some new perspectives on faithful giving and joy in generosity. Rev. Clever-Bartholomew will offer an after church program on Planned Giving and establishing a lasting gifts to sustain the ministry of First Congregational Church.

November 19 – Thanksgiving Worship and Potluck

Come Ye Thankful People Come! Each of us has been blessed! Join us as we sing Thanksgiving hymns, count our blessings, and offer thanks for all that God has given us. A Thanksgiving Potluck will be held following the service. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish to share!

November 26 – An In-Between Sunday and Reception of New Members

This in-between Sunday is the last Sunday of Liturgical Year A, a Bonus Sunday so to speak between Thanksgiving and the beginning of our Advent journey to Bethlehem. What will we do with this Bonus In-Between Sunday? Come and find out! We will receive new members. If you would like to join this church, please speak to Pastor Meredith (914) 255-1690.



A Message from the Moderators

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you to all who attended the Vision Board meeting on October 2, 2023 and participated in the presentation by Rev. Margret Hofmeister. Rev. Hofmeister has been the Area Conference Minister for the Southwest Region of the Southern New England UCC since March 2023. As she will be advising the congregation in our search for a settled pastor, she joined us on October 2 to provide an overview of the search process. We thought it important to use this space this month to update the congregation with the information that she shared. Our goal is for everyone to have a consistent and clear understanding of the status of the settled pastor search process.

The first step in the search process is the formation of the Search and Call Committee. However, we have a bit of work to do before that Committee can be formed. Rev. Hofmeister noted that our church bylaws do not outline how a Search Committee is to be formed. Given this, the Vision Board will need to determine how the Search Committee will be selected. Your church leadership is actively reviewing how past search committees were formed and anticipate using a similar process that we will update where necessary. In the upcoming weeks, the Vision Board will be voting on this process, and we will be informing the congregation as soon as possible about what the search committee formation procedures will look like.

Rev. Hofmeister advised that the Search Committee should consist of 7 – a maximum of 9 church members with the following characteristics:

- A deep commitment to the well-being of the church and willingness to work on behalf of the whole congregation.
- An ability to set aside personal desires and put the focus on the future of the church and our congregation, guided by a clear understanding of the church's Vision and Mission Statement.
- Collectively reflect a diverse representation of the congregation: different ages, backgrounds, lengths of membership, gender, life stages, and cross-section of theological beliefs.
- A willingness to devote significant time to the process.
- Skills that include organization, openness, communication and listening.
- A willingness to compromise and understand the importance of the need for consensus.
- A commitment to keep all Search Committee information confidential, understanding that sharing information with church members, one's family or one's friends will jeopardize the integrity of the process.
- An openness to consider any candidate God may send to us without preconceptions of who that should be.

Ultimately, the Vision Board (composed of the co-moderators, treasurer, church clerk and a representative of each Ministry) will be selecting the Search Committee.

After the Search Committee has been formed, its tasks include:

- Creating a written church profile that describes who we are, who are neighbors are, who God is calling us to be, the challenges we have faced, and how we deal with conflict. The content of this profile is guided

by our Vision and Mission statement and additional feedback from the congregation. Once the profile is approved by the Search Committee and Vision Board, it will be submitted to Rev. Hofmeister for her review and suggestions. After discussion/changes, it will be posted on the National Website under the SNEUCC, and ministerial candidates will be able to view our profile. Interested candidates contact Jill Ford, an SNEUCC staff member dedicated to search and call, and ask her to send our Search Committee their profile.

- Reviewing the profiles of interested candidates and conducting interviews.
- Discerning toward a final candidate.
- Introducing a final candidate to the Congregation.

Rev. Hofmeister alerted us to the current conference-wide “climate” with regard to search and call of which our congregation needs to be aware:

- There are currently more churches looking for clergy than there are clergy looking for churches.
- Most clergy candidates are female, minority, or LGBTQ.
- Current clergy candidates highly value boundaries, work-life balance, and time for self-care.
- Clergy candidates are looking for
 - fair and equitable compensation,
 - congregations that are transparent about past challenges and open to working through them, and
 - healthy environments where people work well together and are engaged in ministry.
- It is commonly taking churches 12-18 months to complete the Search and Call process.

We realize that this is a lot of information to digest. However, we present it openly and transparently so that everyone understands the process and can develop reasonable expectations going forward. If there are any questions about any of the information that we have presented, please address those questions directly to us, members of the Vision Board, and Rev. Meredith. For additional general information, please visit www.sneucc.org, choose the Change Agents tab, and then select “The Search and Call Journey” which provides information and videos regarding each phase of the Search and Call process.

This is an exciting time in our church life. We ask for your prayers and God’s guidance as we march into our future.

With grace and peace to all,
Lori Folk-Barron and Greg Whitehouse
Co-Moderators



FROM THE MINISTER OF MUSIC



Future Events



Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, 10:00 AM Worship
Choral Sermon: 'I Hear the Prophet Callin' by Pepper Choplin
Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023 10:00 AM Worship
Pageant – Play – 'Christmas Snapshots' by Cathy Skogen-Soldner
10:15 – 11:00 PM Extended prelude before service
11:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship



CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Rehearsals: Nov. 5, 12, 19

Nov. 26 – No Rehearsal

Nov. 19 – Sing in Church

Rehearsals: Dec 3, 10, 17

Special Rehearsal: Sat. Dec 23. 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Dec. 24: Sing in Church 10:00 AM

'Christmas Snapshots'



CHANCEL CHOIR



Rehearsals: Wed. Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec 6

Special Rehearsal: Fri. Dec 8. 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Dec. 10 at 10:00 AM Worship - Choral Sermon

Rehearsal: Wed. Dec. 13, 20

Sing – Dec. 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM

Prelude 10:15 – 11:00 PM

No rehearsal Dec. 27 (Wed.)



HANDBELL CHOIR



Rehearsals: Nov. 2, 9, 16

No rehearsal Nov. 23

Play in Church Nov. 19

Rehearsals: Thurs. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14

No rehearsal Dec. 21 & 28

Play in Church Dec. 17



Questions or problems, text or call Jeanette at (860) 803-8745

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



October was a busy month for Faith Formation Ministry! Sunday School's attendance has been fantastic and continuing to grow. We are thankful to our teachers for coming every week excited to be with the students! Below we have some class photos and some work that the K – 2nd graders did about the rainbow and Noah's Ark!



On the 15th, the children's choir participated in the anthem and the 2nd and 5th graders received their Bibles. Below are pictures from both!



Youth Group also has been growing through the fall. We have been playing games, talking about topics like how to build healthy friendships and building our community. Below are some pictures of them playing a very fun game and the updated schedule for the fall season.



Looking ahead we are excited to partner with the Mission and Outreach Ministry for the annual Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt. Be on the lookout for the donation sheets in your bulletin soon!

Youth Group Fall/ Winter Schedule

Upcoming Dates:

Middle School Youth Group	High School Youth Group
November 5 th 4:00 - 5:30	November 5 th 5:30 - 7:00
November 19 th Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt! 2:00 - 5:00	November 19 th Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt! 2:00 - 5:00
December 3 rd 4:00 - 5:30	December 3 rd 5:30 - 7:00
December 17 th Random Acts of Kindness 4:00 - 6:00	December 17 th Random Acts of Kindness 4:00 - 6:00
January 7 th 4:00 - 5:30 Chopped Night	January 7 th 5:30 - 7:00 Chopped Night



Open and Affirming Events

Sunday November 5th - The Reverend Shawn Fiedler – Guest Preacher

The ONA Team is very pleased to announce that, on November 5th, our church will be welcoming a special guest who will be assisting Pastor Meredith with the 10am service. His name is Rev. Shawn Fiedler. Shawn is related to Cathy Knight as her first-cousin once-removed, but she likes to refer to him simply as “Cousin Shawn.”

He grew up in the Baltimore, Maryland area and attended public schools there. He received his baccalaureate degree from Bridgewater State College (now University). He received his Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology in 2013.

He has served as Associate Minister at Kings Chapel in Boston, Ministerial Associate for Worship at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, and Associate Minister at Old South Church in Boston.

Shawn is presently the Major Gift Officer for the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. This is a considerable responsibility, as Fourth Presbyterian is a church with over 5,000 members. He lives on “the Cape” with his husband Josh.

Please join the ONA Team after Coffee Hour to meet Shawn and hear his interesting and important story to tell us that we are sure you will find fascinating. Because refreshments will be served, we ask that you tell us you are coming. You can RSVP at Ona.fccw@gmail.com , or at the ONA table during coffee hour.



Remembering Emma May during Transgender Awareness Week

Transgender Awareness Week, observed November 13 to November 19, is a time to honor, celebrate and uplift the transgender community.

During November, we are accepting donations in memory of Emma May to be sent in her honor to The Trevor Project. Emma grew up in our congregation and was an active member of both our Youth Group and Mission Trips. The May family prays that the loss of Emma may reveal the necessity of creating a more compassionate world for all.

By supporting The Trevor Project, we will help fund services to support LGBTQ+ youth and to build a safer more inclusive world. Through crisis services, education, public awareness and advocacy, The Trevor Project strives to make the world a welcoming, loving place. To learn more please visit their website at thetrevorproject.org.

We hope you will give generously in Emma's memory to this important organization. The Mission and Outreach Ministry is coordinating with The Open and Affirming Team and has pledged to match up to \$500 in contributions.

How to Donate:

- Place your donation in the collection plate and identify it *In Memory of Emma*,
- Online at FirstChurchWallingford.org under the Giving page, or
- At the Open and Affirming table in Congregational Hall after services.

Thank you so much for your support!!

Upcoming Program – Date to be Announced

Back by popular demand! The ONA Team has been asked to host another showing of *Fish Out of Water*. This film discusses the controversies between homosexuality and religion, examining Bible verses quoted as condemnatory, and discussing alternative meanings. Watch for details on the upcoming date and time.

“Accept one another, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7)



Thanksgiving is just around the corner!

Your help is needed to feed 300 neighbors in need and the homebound.

Make a donation or volunteer

*Checks made payable to Wallingford Community Dinners, Inc.
can be mailed to PO Box 211, Wallingford, CT 06492*

Many hands make light work, so we need lots of help!

Students in need of service hours are welcome. Make it a family volunteer opportunity!

Volunteers can sign up to help in 1-3 hour shifts or the full day.

Prior to the event: Food Prep, Cooking & Table set up

Event day from 9am to 3pm: Serving tables, Drivers to deliver to homebound, Clean up.

Ready to volunteer?

Have questions?

203-514-8883

WallingfordCommunityDinners@gmail.com

Thanksgiving is November 23

Dinners are served at the First Congregational Church
23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT



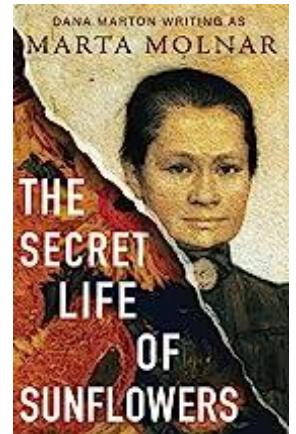


BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our November book is “The Secret Life of Sunflowers” by Marta Molnar.

“A gripping, inspiring novel based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent Van Gogh’s sister-in-law.” (Goodreads)

Please join us on Tuesday November 28 at 6:30 in the Guild Room for another lively discussion.



Flower Team News



Many thanks to all of our 2023 altar flower sponsors. We have sponsors for all of the remaining 2023 Sundays! Please watch for the new **2024 Altar Flower** sign up calendar in the Narthex in November.

Our Christmas Poinsettia order form is located elsewhere in this Spire. Please submit your orders as soon as you are able.

Direct donations to the Flower Fund are also appreciated to allow us to place flowers on the altar on those weeks when we do not have sponsors, to offset costs for various decorations, and for special occasions. Thank you!



Do you have a loved one, a friend, an acquaintance with health, family, personal issues? The Prayer Shawl ministry creates beautiful comforting shawls, lap robes, and blankets for you to give to your loved ones in need. There is always a selection appropriate for men, women, children, parents, caregivers. We have a variety of colors and sizes for you to give. Please ask one of the Care Team (Charlene Bruce, Cheryl Naski, Cliff Castellano, Joan Bushey and Ann Gygax), Pastor Meredith or Kathy Janis for a shawl. All are created by loving hands, blessed in our group and just waiting to give to someone in need of that loving touch, that reminder that they are cared for and cared about through whatever is going on in their lives.

We also create all the Baptismal blankets that are given to each child baptized in our church. Please consider asking for a special blanket for a child in need. Again, we have many sizes, colors and patterns for any child. Perhaps a parent who needs a Prayer Shawl and a special blanket for their child?

Please call or text Kathy Janis 203-376-1173 or email kathrynmjanis@gmail.com with any questions or requests.



The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the church, nevertheless the usher performs a major role in ensuring that people see and experience that.

People feel invited to serve the church through a welcoming ministry. The church usher duties can be summed up in a few words – making people feel welcome at church, assisting the Pastor with people management, assisting with seating, collecting offering, and maintaining a safe environment. Currently, we have five rotating teams. Usher teams are only needed no more than once a month.

If you are interested in joining the ushering ministry, please contact Tony Annunziata at (203) 500-9542



DIRECTORY TIME!

Directory Photos Needed!

As one more way to help us get to know one another better, we will be producing a new directory. The directory will include names, addresses, phone numbers and photos. In the next few months, you will be asked to review your information and to have your directory photo taken. We hope to have the new directory available before Christmas. If you have a good clear headshot of yourself, please email it to pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org If you would prefer we take a photo of you, come with your best smile and we will take a picture for you. See Sue Phipps or Pastor Meredith on Sunday mornings at church or coffee hour, or stop by the church office by appoint Tuesday - Friday 9-2.

WORSHIP **MINISTRY**

You won't hear them singing, or playing instruments, bells or chimes from the bell tower. You won't see them serving communion, or welcoming you to church or helping you find your seat. You won't see them lighting candles or unlocking doors, turning on lights or placing flowers on the altar.

Look to the balcony some week and you will see some individuals up there working cameras and audio/visual equipment and monitoring our live streaming.

The Audio team is made up of Mike Barron, Jeanette Gross, and Eric Ruys and the Live Streaming team is made up of Mike Barron, Robert Berlepsch, Eric Ruys and Lorraine Westervelt.

If you think this is an area you might be able to volunteer to serve, please speak to one of the above members.

Next month I will highlight another team or two of the Worship Ministry. Stay tuned for more.

Dawn Charron, Worship Ministry Coordinator



2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA FORM

The Flower Team is offering poinsettias for \$10 per six-inch pot. Plants may be purchased in memory or in honor of loved ones. The poinsettias will be dedicated on Sunday, December 17th. You may purchase the plants to take home with you following the Christmas Eve services or to be donated to the Christmas Community Dinner attendees.

Please complete this form and return it with payment to the church office (23 S. Main Street, Wallingford 06492) or put it in the offering plate. Orders are due by **December 5th**. Questions? Contact Lori Folk-Barron at lorifolkbarron@gmail.com or 203-314-9885.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

The Flower Team



Number of poinsettias ordered: _____

Amount enclosed (@ \$10 each): _____

(Please make checks payable to First Congregational Church with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.)

I will pick up my plant(s) after the Christmas Eve Services _____

Please give my plants(s) to attendees of the Community Dinner _____

The wording in the bulletin should read:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name _____

Phone number _____





ORDER YOUR 2023 CHRISTMAS WREATHS NOW!

As part of the *Joy of Christmas Fair*, the Flower Team is selling Christmas wreaths to make your holiday season more festive and to raise some funds for the church. The wreaths are available by preorder only.

Wreaths are **\$20**, made of balsam fir, 22” in diameter, and adorned with a homemade bow. Bows are available in a variety of patterns shown below. Wreaths will be available for pickup at the Fair on **Friday evening, December 1st during the Holiday Stroll, and on Saturday, December 2nd from 9 AM – 3 PM.** If needed, special arrangements can be made for delivery; please include your address below.

To place an order, please fill out the form below and return it with payment to the church office (23 S. Main Street, Wallingford 06492) or in the offering plate. Questions, please call Lori at 203-314-9885 or email at lorifolkbarron@gmail.com.

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd.

Christmas Wreath Order Form

Name _____ Phone Number: _____

- I would like to order: _____ wreath(s) @ \$20 each = \$_____ Total
(Checks should be made payable to First Congregational Church with “Wreath order” in the memo line.)

- Ribbon Preference:

_____ a – Red (no picture)


_____ b – Red With Glitter 

_____ c - Gold 

_____ d - Red/White Stripe 


_____ e – Red/White Narrow Stripe 

_____ f – Red/Green Plaid 

_____ g – Holly & Holly Berries 

_____ h – Snowflakes 

_____ i – Gnomes 

_____ j – Snowmen 

Other ribbon styles will be available at the fair, and you will be welcome to choose another style at pick up, if desired.



Join Us for a Hanging of the Greens Breakfast!

Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 9 AM

Christmas is a special time of year to celebrate family and the birth of Christ. With this in mind, you are invited to join us as we prepare the sanctuary for the Advent season.

We will hang wreaths, put up the garland and decorate the Christmas tree after enjoying a fellowship breakfast in Congregational Hall starting at 9 AM.

The breakfast is sponsored by the Fellowship Events Team, and a free will offering will be taken to offset the costs of the breakfast.

Come home for Christmas! Join us for this morning of fellowship with your church family!

We look forward to seeing you!



**Christian Renewal
Weekend
November 17-19 for Women**

Could you use a spiritual boost? Give yourself the gift of a well-crafted enjoyable **Renewal Weekend** from **Footsteps in the Sand**.

Footsteps Weekends are conducted by a team of 21 volunteers including two clergy. People from our church who have attended are enthusiastic about their experience and some are serving on the teams for the upcoming weekends.

If you would like to know more go to our website: Footsteps-Sand.org or contact Bob (203-218-9537) and Lorraine (203-257-6964) Westervelt



Ladies' Breakfast

Please join us for a

Ladies' Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, November 18, 2023

9-11 AM

(Location pending and will be announced soon.)

Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a meal, scripture discussion, and fellowship.

RSVP to Lori Folk-Barron (lorifolkbarron@gmail.com or 203-314-9885) by Thursday, November 16th, and let her know what breakfast item you plan to bring.

Suggestions include juice, muffins, yogurt, fruit, banana bread, quiche, etc.

*Special request: please refrain from perfume for those with a sensitivity. Thank you!



2023 Christmas Fair

Workshops Times

All are welcome to come for an hour and have fun helping with the project of the day! Many (age 12+) hands of any/no skill are needed.

Sundays after church

November 5
November 12
November 19

Midweek Day Times

Wednesday November 1 at 2pm
Wednesday November 8 at 2pm
Tuesday November 14 at 2pm
Friday November 24 at 10am

Midweek Night Time

Thursday November 9 at 7pm

Saturday

November 4 at 10am

Donations for Craft Projects

See requests at Fair table and please bring craft donation items to table in Congregational Hall soon

December 1, 2023

4:00 - 8:00 during Stroll

Outside Hot Dogs, Hot Cider & Hot Chocolate

Inside Most Fair Booths Open and
Santa Photos

December 2, 2023

Booths open 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Breakfast served 9:00 to 10:00 am

Lunch served 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Booths In Process

Baked Goods & Sweets

Books

Cookie Walk

Grandma's Kitchen

Handmade Delights

Holiday Decorations

Jewelry Shoppe

Pottery

Toys

Unique Boutique

Wreaths & Plants

Yesterday's Treasures

We would love for you to enjoy helping!

Contact Fair coordinator: Lorraine Westervelt 203-257-6964 with questions

Cooke Tavern Soups

Fundraiser to benefit the Scholarship Committee

How can I order these great soups?

We will be downstairs in Congregational Hall after worship each Sunday until mid-November.

Delivery before Christmas!

Order from:
John Bau
Ann Gyjax
Bernie and Tony Annunziata
Karen Blakeslee

If you would like to order/pay via Venmo,
contact Karen @ 203-589-8633
k.blakeslee@sbcglobal.net



Autumn Harvest Pumpkin Lentil	🌱
Barn Raising Country Vegetable	
Blacksmith's Black Bean Chili	🌱
Candlelight Corn Chowder	🌱
Colonel Maxwell's Minestrone	
Colonial Broccoli Cheddar Chowder	
Farmer Al's Tomato Basil Bisque	🌱
Fireside Supper Bean	
Henna Marie's Potato & Cheese	🌱
Mi Madre Maria's Chicken Tortilla	🌱
Peter Piper Stuffed Pepper NEW!	🌱
Ten Shilling Sherried Mushroom	🌱
Voila French Onion	🌱
Yankee Doodle Chicken Noodle	

\$9 each or any 3 for \$25



All are free from preservatives and artificial flavoring. Each soup mix makes a generous 2 quarts by adding just a few fresh ingredients.



Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

The First Congregational Church of Wallingford is sponsoring a 10-day trip to Iceland May 15-24, 2024. Highlights of this exciting Collette adventure include tours of cities, villages, farms, museums, mountains, beaches, bays, glaciers, volcanic craters, lava fields, waterfalls, fjords, thermal pools, a cruise along icebergs, time in the warm mineral-rich waters of the Blue Lagoon, and more!

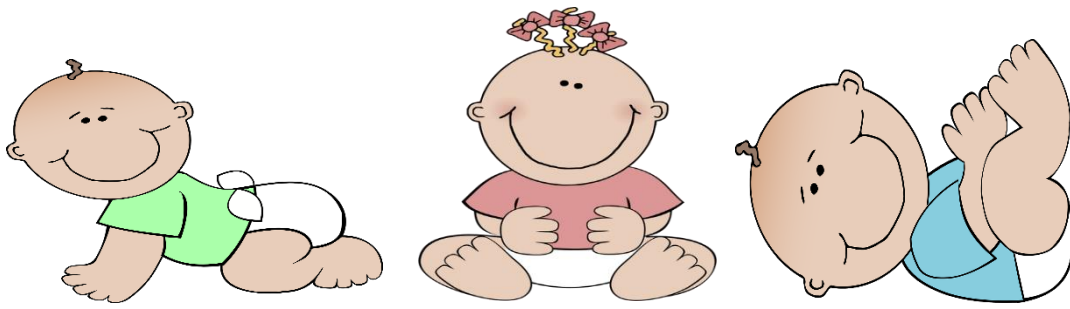
This tour, "Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice," not only offers a fabulous travel opportunity, it also is a fund-raising event for our congregation. Our Church will receive a commission based on the number of travelers who participate.

There are a few seats still available for this tour. **The special reduced price expires November 16!**

For a complete itinerary, pricing and other information visit <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1181976> or contact Debby Voelker at debvoelker@sbcglobal.net or 203 710-1550. Brochures are available in the Church Office and in the Narthex.



It's Time to Explore Iceland!



Baby Corner Wish List

Baby wipes

Lotion

Baby wash

Diaper rash cream

Baby blankets

Grooming kit

Pajamas (sleepers) Gender neutral

Diapers All sizes

Shampoo

Pacifiers

Infant Tylenol

Boogie suckers

Baby washcloths

Blankets

Items will be collected and delivered to
DCF Meriden/Wallingford

Thank you for supporting the Mission & Outreach Ministry!



The Joy
of CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATE THE SEASON



Friday, December 1st 4pm - 8pm
Saturday, December 2nd 9am – 3pm

**Looking forward to lots of
fellowship and fun.**

Santa will visit for pictures on Friday night!
Enduring favorites mixed with new ideas and great excitement.
Help is needed creating things, baking cookies, setting up,
decorating, working booths and food service and clean up after.

It will be wonderful to have everyone involved!
We would love for you to enjoy helping!

Contact Fair coordinator: Lorraine Westervelt 203-257-6964 with questions, ideas, thoughts!



We Would Like to Be There When You Need Us!

First Congregational Church of Wallingford is a church that cares! Sometimes, things happen in life leading to someone needing special care – the loss of a loved one, a hospitalization, a nursing home stay, a prolonged illness, an unsettling life transition, becoming homebound... These are just some of the situations where a caring visit might be needed or welcomed. As the congregation ages, it is expected this need will grow. A recent assessment of households who might need care sometime within the next year, showed that 83 people of this community are on our “radar” as members or friends we know may need caring contact sometime in the next year. Then there are those with sudden, unexpected needs. Church care giving is always a challenge at best, because we would like to show Christ’s love and the care of the church to those who need it, but we frequently don’t know in a timely way when those needs arise. You can help us to serve you better, by calling in when you would like a supportive visit, call, or would like to be added to the prayer list. Ideally, one of our church visitors or the pastor, will be able to respond to you in a timely way. If you would like to become one of our caring callers, you are invited to join that team and share in a wonderful opportunity to care and foster new relationships. If you are in need of care or would like to be added to the Prayer List, please call Pastor Meredith at 914 255-1690 or the church office at 203 265-1691. They will share your request with the Visitation Team Coordinators Charlene Bruce and Cliff Castellano. If you would like to be a visitor and join the Visitation Team, contact Charlene at charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net or Cliff at cliffc45@yahoo.com



Baptism

We baptize in the name of God the Father, who is our Creator; Jesus Christ, God's Son, who is our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, who is our Sustainer. In Baptism we are claimed as God's own and God's beloved.

On October 15, 2023, we celebrated the baptisms of:

Peter James Doria, son of Peter Doria and Danielle DeRosa, born on January 12, 2023.

Jacob Henry Kendall, son of Jonathan and Ashlie Kendall, born on May 17, 2023.

Sophie Adeline Olson, daughter of Justin and Patrick Olson, born November 10, 2022.

Colin John Pawlowski, son of John and Michael Pawlowski, born June 6, 2023.



November will present two opportunities to learn more about the Bible.

Bible Study will be held in the Ashlar Village Theater Tuesday mornings. The theater is accessible through the Bridge House entrance. Join our friends at Ashlar Village for a study of the Gospel of Luke led by Bob Westervelt. This will be an opportunity to get to know our extended church family, make some new friends, and learn more about the Bible. If you would like to join this study, contact the church office at 203 265-1691 or officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org to receive the exact time and location of the Study.

November Bible Study will be held Tuesdays November 7,14, and 21 from 7-8:15 in the Guild Room. This study will teach a simple method for studying scripture on your own or with a group and will use favorite passages as a way to learn this simple method. The class will be led by Pastor Meredith. Together we will explore Bible Study possibilities for the future. If you intend to attend, please contact Pastor Meredith at 914 255-1690 or pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org

Calling All Angels!

After countless years of chilling our Coffee Hour, apple juice and cream, Catch the Spirit hotdogs, Thanksgiving Community dinner ingredients, and Christmas Fair luncheon goodies, we are sad to announce the passing of our Refrigerator.



We will need to replace this loyal and dedicated appliance with a new refrigerator to the tune of \$3600. If you can offer an “angel gift” in any amount to help us cover the cost of this new addition to our kitchen, we would be so thankful!

If we are blessed to receive donations in excess of \$3600, the additional funds will be allocated to Lightning Strike (July 4) and computer expenses.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the church office, place your donation in the offering plate with “Refrigerator Fund” in the check memo line, or use the “Refrigerator Fund” option on the Online Giving tab at www.firstchurchwallingford.org.

Thanks for considering this giving opportunity!



RUMMAGE SALE THANK YOU

With sincere gratitude to ALL of you, I want to thank you once again for making this year's Fall Rummage Sale such a wonderful success; not only for the people who came to buy but also for helping to raise money for the church.

First and foremost, this twice- yearly event is a mission project to help many individuals in our town, in the area, and even countries beyond the United States. Because of all of you, we can be grateful and proud that we still are able to provide this very meaningful commitment.

I am so impressed with how this last sale came together, and how much money we were able to raise in 3 days! I truly believe it is the most we have ever achieved...**\$2,767.50** with more on the way!

Thank you so much to all of you who played a part in making this rummage sale a wonderful success! Your helping hands and loving spirit were definitely on full display!

In Christian love,

Bernie Annunziata

A Note to Church Family Members

10/14/23
Dear Church Family Members,
With tremendous humility and modesty, I want to thank all of you for your very generous outpouring of love and kindness towards me after our latest Fall Rummage Sale. That event is a total church effort; not just one person, so I certainly was very surprised and honored when you presented me with a gift to Michael's Trattoria!
I appreciate your thanking me for what part

-2-

I played in running this very important "mission" of our church, however, I wish to convey my extreme thanks to all of you for enabling the Rummage Sale to take place every year; twice a year.
With heartfelt love and appreciation,
Bernie Annunziata

First Congregational Church of
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following month's edition.*

Email the church office at :
officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org

