



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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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)

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Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



To make a gift to First Church

First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



Easter

April 20, 2025

EASTER April 20, 2025 ORDER OF WORSHIP		
+ Please rise in body or in spirit		
PRELUDE	<i>Variations: O filii et filiae This Joyful Eastertide</i>	Naji Hakim Brenda Portman
WELCOME		
CENTERING MUSIC	<i>Easter Medley</i> The Bell Choir	arr. Jason W. Krug
CALL TO WORSHIP		
My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today— today we know hope. Today we know life. Today we know the sound of Alleluias. Today we know that death does not have the last word. Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day. Alleluia! Amen.		
+HYMN	Christ the Lord is Risen Today	NCH #233
CALL TO PRAYER		
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
The Gospel of Luke says: “It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with		

them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."¹

Forgive us, God,
when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.
Forgive us, God,
when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.
Forgive us, God,
when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.
In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.
Show us how to hold onto hope.
Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER		
ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE		
SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE		
ANTHEM	<i>Hallelujah (Easter Version)</i>	Leonard Cohen Kyla Nesto, Jeremy Phillips, Ryan Phillips
LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12		
MESSAGE Grief and Hope		
+HYMN	The Day of Resurrection	NCH #245
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.		

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY	<i>Hallelujah Sing with Glory!</i> Nancy Price & Don Besig	
+DOXOLOGY		NCH #780
+PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
+HYMN	Because You Live, O Christ	<i>(insert)</i>
+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION		
RESPONSE	<i>Hallelujah Chorus</i>	G.F. Handel
POSTLUDE	<i>Toccata in F Major</i>	Charles-Marie Widor

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!

Serving the church today: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Deanna Holloway, Ushers. Steve Knight, Liturgist. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

Join us as we continue our celebration of new life, next Sunday, April 27, as we **Baptize** a child and **Receive New Members**.

Happy Birthday FCC! Join us as we celebrate the 350 Years, Sunday, May 4, 2025! Worship at 10 followed by a celebratory picnic on the parade grounds!

Enhance your spiritual well-being by participating in the Renewal Weekend from Footsteps in the Sand. **Footsteps weekends** are open to anyone seeking a deeper relationship with Christ. **Men’s Weekend May 16-18 & Women’s Weekend May 30 - June 1.**

Happy, Joyful, and Blessed Easter!

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Ms. Madison Torre, Coordinator of Sunday School and Youth Ministries

New Directories Now Available!

New Photo and Name and Address Directories are now available. With consideration of printing costs and the environment, Directories will be made available electronically via email. A limited number of print copies will be produced for those who do not use technology.

If you would like to receive one or both directories, please fill out this form and place in the offering plate or return to the church office, 23 S. Main St., Wallingford, CT 06492.

I would like to receive:

☐The Photo Directory

☐The Name and Address Directory

Email

Please print clearly

☐I need a printed directory

☐Photo☐Name and Address

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Phone #

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