

## In Our Prayer

Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)\*\*Louis Pasierello Jr. (friend of Mike and Pam Savenelli)\*\*Alicia Morse\*\*Michael May (recovering from surgery)\*\*Gail Berlepsch (recovering from surgery)\*\*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)\*\*Andrew (brain cancer)\*\* Friends of Cynthia Bruestche\*\* Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes\*\*Those impacted by nature's fury\*\* Tina Caldwell\*\* Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend \*\*Sally Coleman\*\* Megan Perkowski \*\*Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) \*\* Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)\*\* Tim Keogh\*\* Charmaine Craggs\*\* Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)\*\*Tom Jastermsky\*\* 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\*\*Janice Frey\*\*David Lick\*\*Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



### The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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Website: [www.firstchurchwallingford.org](http://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 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

**Forgive others,  
not because they  
deserve forgiveness,  
but because you  
deserve peace.**

**August 11, 2024**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**August 11, 2024**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Fur Elise* Ludwig von Beethoven

*Minuet in G* Ludwig von Beethoven

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Shall We Gather at the River*  
Robert Lowry/arr. Joel Raney

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We are caught up in the trials and tribulations of our everyday lives.

**P: The world seems to swirl around us, as a whirlpool, pulling us downward.**

L: Bad news blasts us from every direction.

**P: We need God's healing touch right now.**

L: Help us to believe in your healing love, O Lord.

**P: Help us to focus our lives on your redeeming presence.**

L: Enable us to reach out to each other and to our community.

**P: Give us the strength, determination, and commitment to speak your word of peace.**

L: And the people who seek the Lord shout:

**ALL: AMEN!**

+HYMN We Gather Together NCH #421

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**Lord, we want the easy way out! When things go wrong, we want to find who to blame for our misfortune. When we don't get what we want, we want to punish whoever prevents us from our goals and desires. We don't want to look at the ways in which we have perverted your love for us. We treat you as though you are a puppet who will dance to our demands. We act like spoiled children who**

**want everything immediately, and who will become sullen and spiteful if we don't get what we ask for. We stopped listening to you. Systems of greed and injustice replaced your command to "love one another". And now we come to you, asking for forgiveness and healing. Our hearts and lives are empty without your love. Our spirits wither and die in this greedy wasteland. Give to us your life-sustaining bread. Heal our souls. Help us to truly worship you and to willingly work for healing and hope in this world. We ask these things in Jesus' Name, AMEN.**

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SOLO Sarah Mather, solo

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:25-5:2

MESSAGE

HYMN Come to Me, You Weary NCH # 484

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 *Siciliano from Flute Sonata in E-flat Major*  
J.S. Bach

+DOXOLOGY 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

+HYMN Help Us Accept Each Other NCH #388

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *God Be with You till We Meet Again* NCH# 81

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsel guide uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.**

POSTLUDE *La Cazamajor* Jacques Duphly

**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 loving memory of Constance and Henry Peters and Olive Whitehouse by Sharon and Greg Whitehouse.

**Serving the church today:** Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers. Rick Voelker, Chimes. Tony Annunziata, Liturgist.

**Have you pledged yet?** We are inching closer to our 2024-2025 goal. To date we have received 94 pledges for a total of \$192,248. Please be prayerful in considering what God is calling you to do for your church. Please be generous in your giving. Together, we are changing lives!

Join us for the **WALLINGFORD TOWN BLOCK PARTY and COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL** on Friday, August 23, 2024 @ 5:00 PM. Sponsored by the Music Team with support from Christian Education and Mission and Outreach Ministry. We are looking for donations of ice cream toppings to make it extra yummy! Monetary donations would also be appreciated. Donations can be dropped off in the church kitchen or given to Holly Francke, Dawn Charron or Tina Caldwell.

**Musication organ introduction for children and youth:**

August 19-22 (Mon.-Thurs) 12 noon to 2 p.m. for children entering grades 3-9. Registration forms will be available Sundays in church school and on the piano in Congregational Hall and in a MailChimp. What will we be doing? Finding out how the organ produces various sounds exploring the physical set up of the organ from the blowers in the church basement to the chambers where the pipes are and much more.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor  
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music  
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager  
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton