

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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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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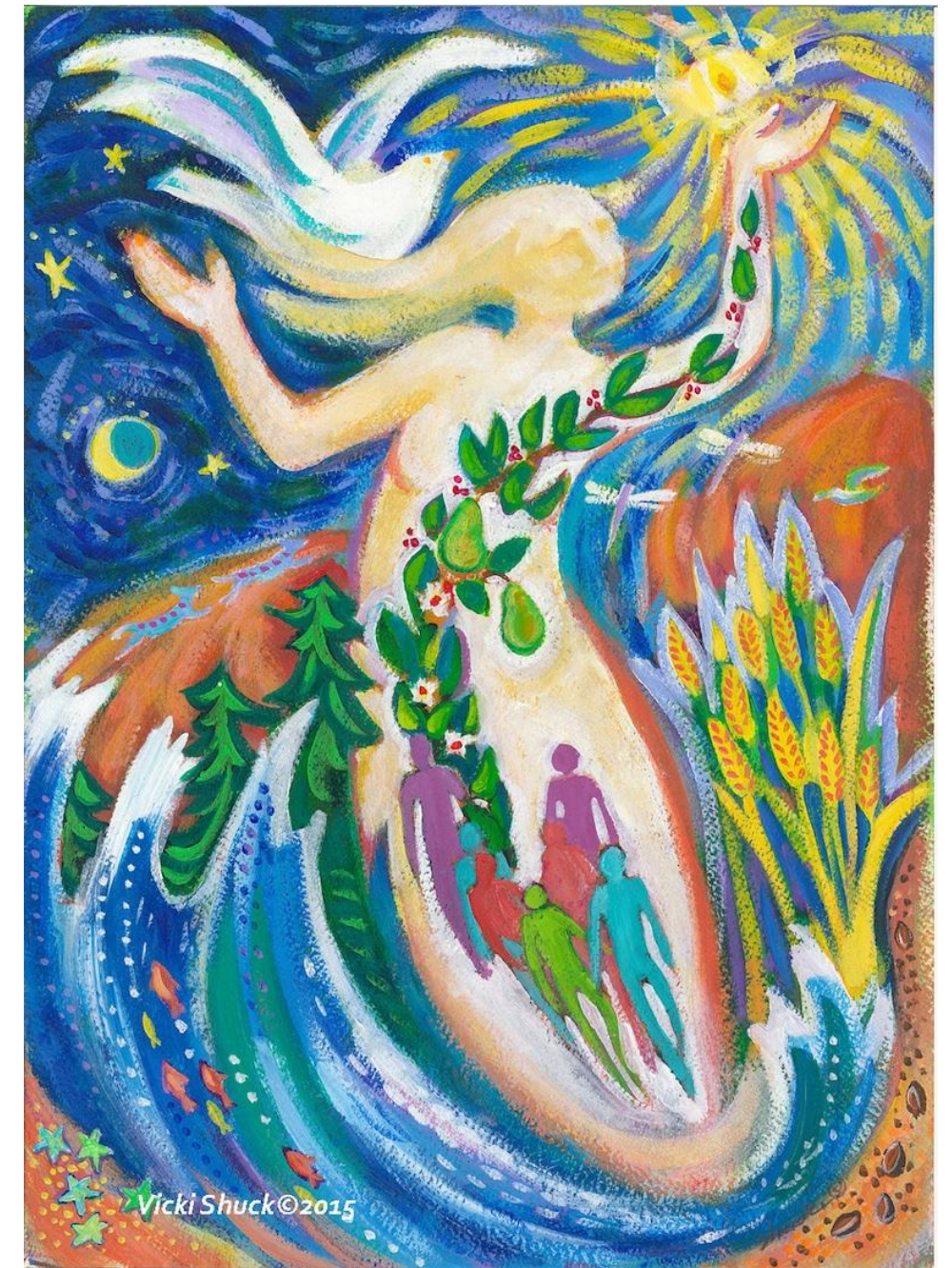
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First Congregational Church



August 18, 2024

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

August 18, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Prelude XXII, BWV 891* J.S. Bach

To A Wild Rose Op.51, No.1
Edward MacDowell

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Listen to the Children Praying*
Ken Medema/arr. John Carter

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, give thanks to the Lord with all your heart and soul!

P: We come, rejoicing over God's many blessings poured out on us!

L: God's works are great!

P: We delight in learning about them.

L: Respect for God and all that God offers to us is the beginning of wisdom.

P: With gratefulness, we shall praise and honor God all our lives. AMEN.

+HYMN *Praise to God* NCH #5

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We long for wisdom, O Lord, but prefer that it be our own. We turn away from the ideas of others and ignore the possibility and promise that come from life together with you. Most of all, we drown out your gift of Wisdom as she seeks to get our attention, for we believe that we know better or would prefer to decide where we make her welcome. Forgive us, loving God. Bring an end to the self-righteousness that ignores you, and awaken us anew to the Wisdom that comes only from you. Show us how to walk in your ways and listen to your promise each and every day.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 111

SOLO *Madison Torre, Soloist*

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Ephesians 5:15-20

MESSAGE *Artificial Wisdom?*

HYMN *In Solitude* NCH # 521

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 *Be Thou My Vision*
Trad. Irish Melody/arr. Vicki Hancock Wright

+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 *Joys Are Flowing Like a River* NCH # 284

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Sent Out in Jesus' Name*
Trad. Cuban/ arr. Carmen Pena

**Sent out in Jesus' name, Our hands are ready now
To make the earth a place in which the kingdom comes.
(Repeat 2 lines)**

**The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**

**The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O help us to obey and carry out your will.**

POSTLUDE *To God Be the Glory*
William H. Doane/arr. Mary McDonald

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 today by Heidi, Andrew, and Emma in memory of our loving husband and father, Ron Bonassar.

Serving the church today: Lois Doherty, Steve and Cathy Knight, Bruce and Katherine Ollodart, Jeremy Phillips, Ushers. Bob Westervelt, Chimes. Ryan Phillips, Liturgist.

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.

Next Sunday, August 28, is **Music, Music, Music and Ice Cream!** Join us as we celebrate Summer!

Musication organ introduction for children and youth:

August 19-22 (Mon.-Thurs) 10 am to 12 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.

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!

Catch the Spirit – Sunday, September 15 - 10 AM

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