



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)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

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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Dawn Charron,

First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



August 31, 2025

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE *I've Got Peace Like a River with Standin' in the
Need of Prayer*
arr. Mary McDonald

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *I Want to Be a Christian*
Spiritual/arr. Stan Pethel/Jen Wood, clarinet

CALL TO WORSHIP

With all your strength, sing aloud to the Lord, who has brought you here and blessed you.

Our voices shall shout forth praise and thanksgiving to God.

With all your heart, reach out in service to those in need,
remembering God's mercy in your own life.

Our lives shall be witnesses to the love of God, which has been lavished upon us.

Come, let us worship the Lord with Great joy!

Let us bring all that we have and all that we are to God in gratitude. AMEN.

+HYMN O Day of Radiant Gladness NCH # 66

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We confess, O Lord, that we love attention. We are pleased when people single us out for something good that we have done, for some outstanding act or trait of kindness that we exhibit. We revel in the light; but the seductive light too often captures us and we seek its brightness and glory and turn our backs on others in need. We have been given many gifts, but have failed to use them to help others and to serve you. Forgive us our vanity and greed. Heal our wounded and aching souls. Place us again on the pathway of peace and hope that is your way to true life. For we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO *Be Not Afraid* Dawn Charron, solo
Bob Dufford, SJ/arr.Theophane Hytrek, OSF

READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Luke 14:1, 7-14

THE MESSAGE

HYMN I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table (insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

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 *Morning Has Broken*
Spiritual/arr. Stan Pethel/Jen Wood, clarinet

+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN Lord, Make Me More Holy NCH # 75

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE	Make Me a Servant	Kelly Willard
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**Make me a servant Humble and meek
Lord let me lift up Those who are weak
And may the prayer Of my heart always be
Make me a servant Make me a servant
Make me a servant today**

POSTLUDE *America, the Beautiful*
Samuel Ward/arr. Fishel Pustilnik/ Jen Wood, clarinet

Announcements

Serving the church today: Tony Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinckley, Bernice Annunziata, Ushers. Russ Hinkley, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of Michael S. Yerganian in celebration of his 28th birthday on September 3 – forever in our hearts and never forgotten by John, Maria, and Alex Yerganian

On Sunday, September 7 at 11:30am in Congregational Hall, please join our own Nancy Tipping, Xerces Society Ambassador for her free presentation **Bring Back the Fireflies** to learn about simple things you can do to increase their survival and protect our natural world.

Summer Craft Workshops Please have a refreshment after church and join us for craft workshops in Congregation Hall as we prepare for our Christmas Fair. Materials and instruction will be provided. Your ideas are welcome.

Bible Study Tuesday 5:30 pm starting September 16. Have you ever wondered why we sing what we do in church? Did you know there is a tie between theology (the study of the nature of God and religious belief) and worship, especially hymns? Did you know that hymn writers are some of the best theologians? Are you curious Join us on Tuesday evening. Information: Charlene Bruce 203-503-8379 or charlenebruce@sbcglobal.net

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