

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 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



August 4, 2024

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 4, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Sonata No. 23, op. 57 (second movement)*
Ludwig von Beethoven

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *You Raise Me Up*
Brenda Graham & Rolf Loveland/arr. Marrienne Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: All who are gathered here this day are welcome in the sight of the Lord.

P: We come from times of stress and worry, needing God's healing love.

L: Come to this place of healing and feeding.

P: Christ bids us welcome!

L: From the worries of our lives

P: Christ bids us welcome!

L: From the things that draw us down and away,

P: Christ bids us welcome!

L: Let your celebration begin!

P: Let us partake of the banquet of God in Jesus Christ. AMEN.

+HYMN I Come With Joy Before the Lord NCH #349

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

In the daily grind of life, we are so often taught to climb the ladder of success by stepping on each other, focusing only on our own wants and needs. Even as children on a carousel, we were taught to try to grab the golden ring, and it would fulfill our dreams of glory and wealth. We chase after all those false idols that cannot ever sustain us and bring us peace. Forgive our stupidity, Lord. Forgive us when we believe that if we only could win the Lottery, everything would be OK and we would be happy. It is

your Son Jesus Christ who leads us in the ways of happiness and peace, sustaining us with his life-giving bread. Nurture us again, Lord, with this Bread of Life, that we may truly focus on the ministries and mission you have set before us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SOLO *You Will Be Found* Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
Sydney Drumheller, solo

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE John 6:24-35

MESSAGE

HYMN Let us Talents and Tongues Employ NCH #347

THE COMMUNION

This morning you are invited to come forward to receive Communion. Come forward via the center aisle, receive your bread and cup, partake, and then return to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer, an usher will bring the Communion to you at your seat.

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 Not Afraid* Bob Dufford/arr. Mark Hayes

+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 There's A Spirit in the Air NCH # 294

+COMMISSION AND BLESSING

THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF KAYLA PERKOWSKI

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 *Somebody's Knocking at Your Door*
Joe Utterback

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 with gratitude to Kayla Perkowski for her years of service to our children, our youth and this congregation.

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers. Bernie Annunziata, Chimes. Dawn Charron, Louise Zemina, Tina Caldwell, Kathy Wallace, Sacramental Ministers. Bernie 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 today as we **Celebrate the Ministry of Kayla Perkowski** to our Children and Youth! After many years of teaching and leading in our Sunday School and Youth Program, Kayla is "retiring" to pursue new interests.

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
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Acting Coordinator of Sunday School
and Youth Ministries