

## In Our Prayers

Our country, our leaders, and leaders elect\*\*Jeni Busta (waiting for transplants)\*\*Lisa Marie Stern (recovering from surgery)\*\*Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)\*\*Oaklynn (3 year old granddaughter of Tina Caldwell)\*\* Those impacted by nature's fury\*\*Michael Savenelli \*\*Beth Piascy\*\*Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)\*\*Louis Pasierello Jr. (friend of Mike and Pam Savenelli)\*\*Jeff Clay (progressive throat cancer, (Tina Caldwell's brother in law)\*\*Gladys Wells\*\*Carolyn Keehan (in Hospice)\*\*Bob Kaden (having neck surgery)\*\*Andrew (brain cancer)\*\* Friends of Cynthia Bruestche\*\* Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes\*\*Tina Caldwell\*\*Sally Coleman\*\* Megan Perkowski \*\* Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)\*\* Tim Keogh\*\* 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\*\* 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 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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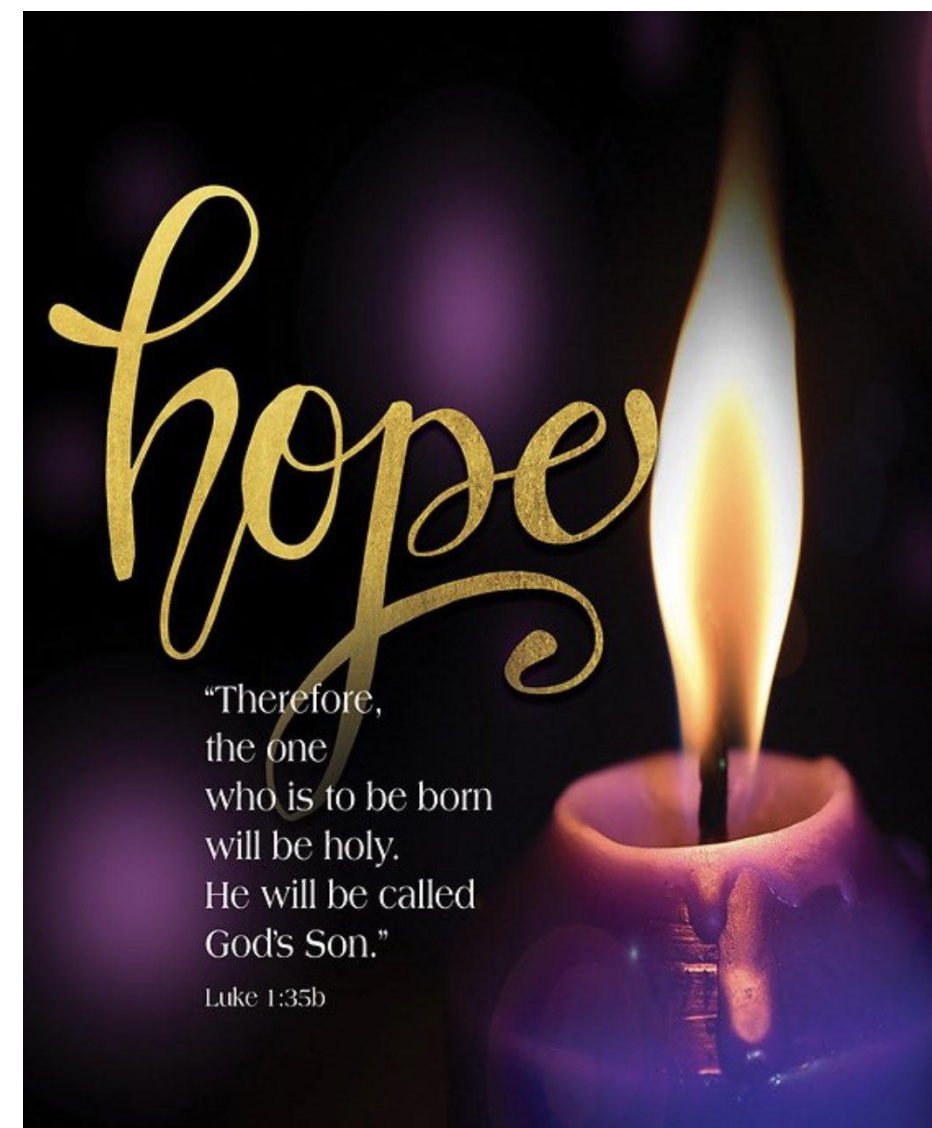
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## First Congregational Church



**December 1, 2024**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 1, 2024**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE                    *Meditation*                    Gabriel Dupont

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC    *Adagio non troppo Op. 14, No.8*  
   Alexandre Boely

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God says,

**P: "Do not be afraid."**

L: God says,

**P: "I will be with you."**

L: God says,

**P: "You are precious and honored in my sight."**

L: At the beginning of this season,

**P: at the start of this week,**

L: at the top of this hour,

**P: may we wrap ourselves in these words.**

L: May we begin again.

**P: Let us worship our Holy God!**

HYMN    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vss. 1, 7) NCH # 116

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

**Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Charlene Bruce and Carol Pontecorvo

CANDLE RESPONSE (see insert)

READING FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE John 1:26-38

ANTHEM                    *Ballade of Bethlehem*                    Pepper Choplin

THE MESSAGE

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY                    *Voice of the Wilderness*                    Pepper Choplin  
   African Folk Melody/HOLY MANNA/ arr. Daryl Hollinger

+DOXOLOGY (melody: In the Bleak Midwinter)

**Praise the one creator, praise the living Christ.**

**Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night.**

**Praise when you are weary, praise and times of joy.**

**Praise my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION    Let Us Break Bread Together    PGM #288

THE COMMUNION

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**

+HYMN                    My Soul Gives Glory to My God                    NCH # 119

+THE BENEDICTION

RESPONSE                    *A Song of Hope*

Tune: Sephardic Folk Tune

POSTLUDE                    *Passepied*                    setting by David Evan Thomas

**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!m

**The flowers** on the altar are given to wish members and friends of First Congregational Church a blessed and joyful Advent season.

**Serving the church today:** Roy Cannon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker, Ushers. Sacramental Ministers; Tina Caldwell, Holly Francke, Lori Folk-Barron, Debby Voelker. Carol Pontecorvo and Charlene Bruce, Candle Lighters. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

**Time to start baking for the Christmas Fair!!** Cookies for Cookie Walk and Baked Goods for the Good News Cafe: Muffins, brownies, cakes or pie to sell by the slice, pumpkin, banana or other breads. Drop off Thursday or Friday morning.

**Drop off by Wednesday:** Raffle Basket items, gently used toys and treasures. Newish adult books (hardcover or paperbacks) Classic books and Children books.

*As expressed in our church's **Open and Affirming (ONA) Covenant**, "Jesus' teachings of love and compassion call us to uplift each individual and celebrate our shared humanity, both within the sanctuary of this church and throughout the community in which we live and serve."*

To live into Jesus' teachings, the ONA Team is meeting to discuss ways to promote the fair and equitable treatment of all. If you'd like to join our team or have ideas you'd like to share, please speak with any ONA Team member (Kathy Filkins, Cathy Knight Steve Knight, Sandy McKenna, Pam Walker, Erica Haddad, Jeanette Gross), or email us at [ona.fccw@gmail.com](mailto:ona.fccw@gmail.com).

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor

Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music

Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager

Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton

Ms. Maddie Torre, Coordinator Sunday School  
and Youth Ministries