

In Our Prayers

Our country, our leaders, and leaders elect**Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)**Oaklynn (3 year old granddaughter of Tina Caldwell)** Those impacted by nature's fury**Michael Savenelli **Beth Piascyk**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)**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

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.

Portions of the service have been reprinted by permission of

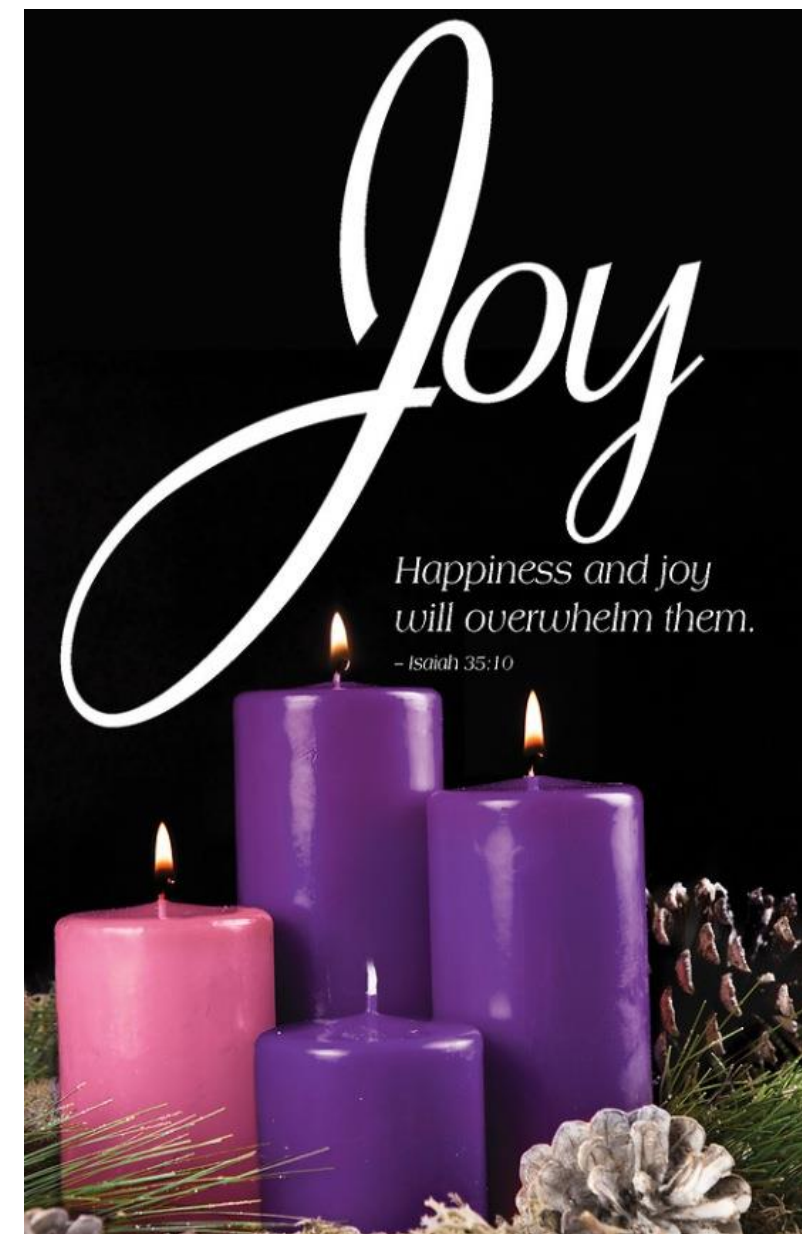
The Pilgrim Press from the Pilgrim Hymnal © 1958 and

The New Century Hymnal ©1995.

All rights reserved. Printed under One License.net A-718386.

CCLI License No.3108192

First Congregational Church



December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy!

December 15, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Adagietto* Leon Boellmann

Prelude of the Eighth Tone
Johann Erasmus Kindermann

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Ricercare* Alessandro Poglietti

CALL TO WORSHIP

“Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

Let us worship our present and active God.

+HYMN My Heart Sings Out With Joyful Praise NCH #106

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liberating God, There are days when the world can feel like it’s crumbling. There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference. I ask myself, What could these two hands do? What could this one voice say? Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt. Remind me that I am not called to fix everything. I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do. With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST’S PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joy!
Carol Pontecorvo and Rev. Charlene Bruce

MUSICAL RESPONSE (insert)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

THE BAPTISM OF JOSEPH ANTHONY NAPLES

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:9-12

ANTHEM *Creation Will Be At Peace* Anna Laura Page
The Handbell Choir

THE MESSAGE

HYMN Help Us Accept Each Other NCH #388

CALL TO PRAYER

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 *The People Who Walk in Darkness*
Pepper Choplin The Chancel Choir

+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

+HYMN For the Healing of the Nations NCH #576

RESPONSE *Advent Benediction Response*
Traditional Sephardic/arr. J. Gross

POSTLUDE *Nova, nova*
Medieval Carol/arr. Robert J. Powell

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 memory of my father, Leon Currier, by Edith Towne

Serving the church today: Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, and Bill Zemina Ushers. Steve Knight, Liturgist. Debbie Clark, Chimes. Carol Pontecorvo and Charlene Bruce, Advent Candle Lighters.

Join us for a Hot Chocolate Bar next Sunday, December 22, following worship. Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of Love. The theme will be Hope is Worth the Risk.

Our Annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be at Ashlar Village next Sunday, December 22 at 2:00. Come for the special music, Christmas Carols, Christmas stories, and light.

Christmas Eve we will worship at 5 and 9 pm. The 5 PM service is a family service with carols and a pageant. The 9 PM service will include Carols, Candlelight, and Communion.

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