

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**Beth Piascyk**Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)**Louis Pasierello Jr. **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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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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First Congregational Church



Dec 29, 2024

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Pastorale in F Major* J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Somewhere in My Memory*
from "Home Alone" John Williams/arr. Phillip Keveren

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O Christ, light of the world, come to our lives and reveal meaning and truth

P: O Christ, hope of the despairing, come to our lives and teach us simple joy.

L: Jesus Christ, bread of the soul, come to us and nourish us to true and eternal life.

P: Jesus Christ, shepherd of the flock, come and lead us to the springs of living water.

L: Living Christ, just and gentle judge, come and reveal us to ourselves

P: Living Christ, healer of the wounded, come make us whole. Show us the way to new life.

All: On the cusp of the New Year, let us continue to celebrate Christ's birth, worship by opening ourselves, renew our spirits, and strengthen us for the year ahead.

+HYMN Joyful, Joyful We Adore You NCH # 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have sought you in high and holy places, but we are ill-prepared to acknowledge your presence among the lowly and the poor. We believe you are profound, but we overlook your obvious truths. We are anxious about the unknown in the New Year, but we hardly consider the realities in front of us. Turn us, O God, by the simple wonders of your grace and love to a rebirth of faith and hope and joy.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE Madison Torre

ANTHEM *Star of Bethlehem from "Home Alone"*
John Williams

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES 1 Sam 2:18-20,26

LESSON FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Luke 2: 41-52

THE MESSAGE "Home Alone"

HYMN Once in Royal David's City NCH# 145

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 *From Heaven Above* Johann Pachelbel

+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 in times of joy.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN I Am the Light of the World NCH # 584

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

RESPONSE *Once in Royal David's City (verse 4)* NCH# 145

POSTLUDE *Carol of the Bells* arr./Jeff Parks

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, Charles Matakaetis by Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce.

Serving the church today: Roy Cannon, Louise Zemina, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker Ushers. Nancy Tipping
Liturgist. Bernie Annunziata, Chimes.

First Congregational Church begins a year of celebration celebrating our 350th year of Ministry and Mission. We have many fun and meaningful events planned. Our first is a Kickoff Dinner Saturday, January 18 at the church. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 512, and includes dinner, entertainment, games, and fun. Children under 5 are free. Call the church office to order your tickets. (203) 2251691.

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