

In Our Prayers

The Filkins Family and Cindy Mansfield on the death of Daphne Filkins, infant daughter of Connor and Kassi Filkins**Our country and our leaders**Sandy Weekes**David Wells (knee surgery)**Nan Lepard (friend of Dawn Charron)**Individuals and communities impacted by new policies**Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)** Those impacted by nature's fury**Beth Piascyk**Linda Syphers (friend of Gail Berlepsch)**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



February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

A Firm Foundation

February 2, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

NCH - New Century Hymnal (Black)

PRELUDE *Meditation Suite* Marianne Kim

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Prayer* George Walker

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.

+HYMN How Firm a Foundation NCH # 407

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kingdom. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

LESSON FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 71:1-6

ANTHEM *God's Gonna Set This World on Fire*
arr. Moses Hogan & Edwin Hogan

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Luke 4:21-30

THE MESSAGE

HYMN Give Up Your Anxious Pains NCH# 404

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *We Gather at Your Table, Lord*
Trad. Irish Melody / arr. Walter Ehret

+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

THE COMMUNION

This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome. You are invited to come forward to receive the sacrament. Please come forward using the center aisle where you will receive either grape juice or water and bread or a rice cake. You may return to your seat via the side aisle. If you wish to be served in your seat, please indicate that to the ushers and a Sacramental Minister will come to serve you.

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**

+HYMN My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (insert)

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Go Forth, O People of God*
Cesareo Gabarain

POSTLUDE *Impromotu* Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

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 honor of Jeanette Gross, by Chris and Deeny Bennett.

Serving the church today: Tony Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinckley, Bernice Annunziata, Ushers. Louise Zemina, Dawn Charron, Holly Francke, Greg Whitehouse, Sacramental Ministers. Bernie Annunziata, Liturgist. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

Come and hear the reprise of **Our Father, A Journey Through the Lord's Prayer** this Friday, February 7 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Refreshments will follow.

Super Grinders and Salads for SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!! Place your order for Superbowl Sunday, February 9, 2025. Price is only \$10 for a 12" grinder sandwich or \$10 for a tossed salad. **Support our Youth Mission Trip** Place your order at Coffee Hour today!

Youth Mission Trip, Scranton, PA, July 20-26, 2025

Youth (going into ninth grade next year through age 20) interested in going on this mission trip should speak with Maddie Torre or Lorraine Westervelt. We are collecting a \$50 deposit by February 9 when we gather to make subs and salads.

Come and Celebrate the long tradition of Scouting at First Church as we celebrate **Boy Scout Sunday**, next Sunday February 9!

It is now recognized that the United Church of Christ is made of five streams, not four. **Come and hear the Rev. Edwin Perez, Jr** talk about the fifth stream, one that emerges embraces the diversity of our shared history. Sunday, February 23, at 11:40. A light lunch will be served.

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