

## In Our Prayers

Our country, our leaders, and leaders elect\*\*David Wells (knee surgery)\*\*Nan Lepard (friend of Dawn Charron)\*\*Lori Parisi and Kathy Graham (cancer diagnosis)\*\* Those impacted by nature's fury\*\*Beth Piascy\*\*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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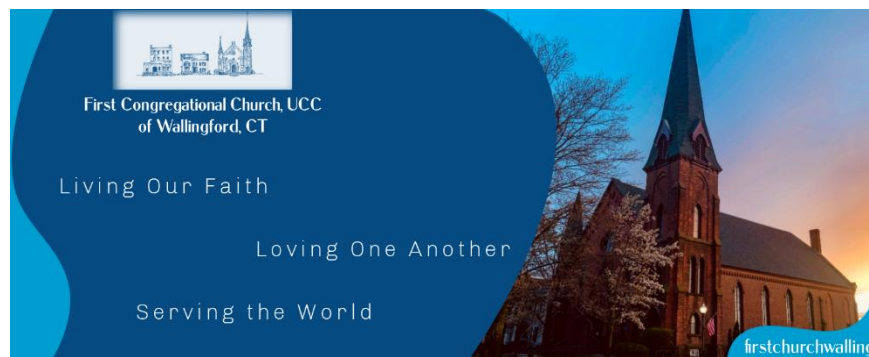
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To make a gift to First Church



**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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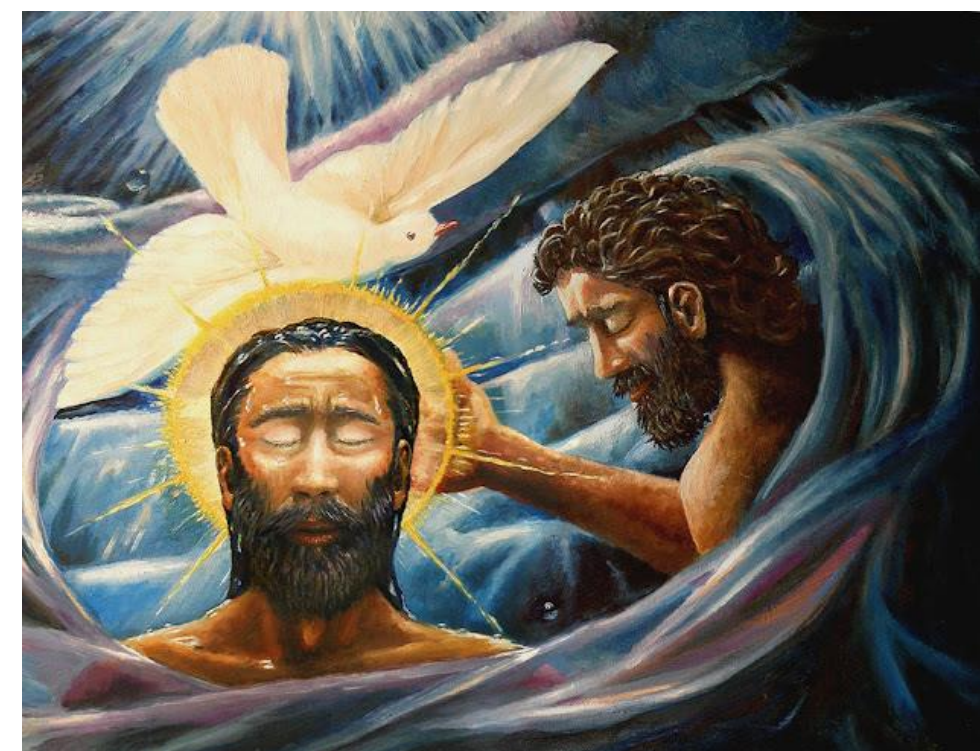
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# First Congregational Church



**January 12, 2025**

## The Baptism of Jesus

**January 12, 2025**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Wade in duh Wadduh!*  
Spiritual/arr. William Farley Smith

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Kelvingrove* Matthew H. Cort

CALL TO WORSHIP

The one who granted us the breath of life is present here to greet us.

**Praise God for the gift of life and the linking of our lives with one another.**

God's own Spirit rests upon us, drawing us into the family of faith.

**We have been baptized into Christ and share in the mission entrusted to Jesus.**

The good news of peace is for all people, for God shows no partiality.

**All who fear God and do what is right are acceptable to the God of the universe.**

Come together, then, to remember Jesus' baptism and ponder its implications for us.

**Open your heavens to us, O God, that your reality may be inescapably apparent.**

+HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come* NCH # 164

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator of the universe, we stand amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God.**

**Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*  
John Ylvisaker/arr. John Helgen

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

THE MESSAGE

HYMN *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* NCH# 292

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 *Go Light Your World*  
Chris Rice/arr. Allen Pote

+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 *Crashing Waters at Creation* NCH # 326

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*  
Louis Morean Gottschalk

POSTLUDE *Shine, Jesus, Shine*  
David Blackwell

**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 our beloved aunt Evie McGaughey, from Dave, Deeny, and Heather.

**Serving the church today:** Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers. Deanna Holloway, Liturgist. Debbie Clark, Chimes.

**First Congregational Church begins a year of celebration celebrating our 350<sup>th</sup> 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. Today is the deadline for purchasing tickets.

**The Warm and Cozy Drive** is next Saturday, January 18 from 9-11 am. We will be collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, umbrellas, and ponchos for the Wallingford Emergency Shelter.

**Sympathy is extended to the families and friends of Avery Morgan and Alfred (Al) Mueller.** Avery passed away December 28, 2024 and Al on January 4, 2025. We give God thanks for their faithfulness and for the gift of eternal life.

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