

In Our Prayers

Jill as she begins a new medical trial**Those impacted by nature's fury**Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavares Savanelli)**Deborah Masella (new cancer diagnosis)**Family and friends of Claire Fowler** Tina Caldwell**Paul and Melissa Masi and friends mourning the loss of Hayden Steinhilper**Traci Wells (family of David Wells)**Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)**Those recovering from natural disasters**Diane Geiss** Shirley Breedlove (Tina Caldwell's mom)** Sharon Geil**Sally Coleman** Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run** Megan Perkowski **Alexander Karacsonyi **Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family) **A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Charmaine Craggs** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)**Tom Jastermsky** Connie Ferrara (Sue Keogh's mom)** Gabe and Jude Heidenis (Bernie and Tony's grandsons)**Jack Grotti (friend of Sally Coleman)** Wendy Riddle, sister of Sandy Weekes ** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuael Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Kyle Denson (friend of Kristen Hinckley)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman** Hazel Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's grandmother) **Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)** Judy and Eric Rickes (Kristen Hinckley's parents)**Janice Frey**David Lick** Beverly Lastig** 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 Wallingford, CT



First Sunday After Epiphany Sunday January 14, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Variations on the Huron Carol* Brenda Portman

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *How Brightly Shines* David Bednall

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: O Lord, you have searched us and known us.
P: Before we move or think or speak, you know our actions and our words.
L: You breathed life into us, and shaped us in human form to serve your purpose and sing your praise.
P: We praise you for the gifts of substance and spirit, of acceptance and expectancy, of lineage and legacy.
L: How wonderful are your thoughts, O God!
P: How vast is the expanse of your grace and love!
L: Praise the Lord!
P: The Lord’s name be praised!

+HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* NCH #12

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Ever present God, somewhere long ago, someone convinced us that we would not be good material for you to use in healing and helping ministries for this world. We don’t really believe that we have anything worthwhile to offer. It is relatively easy for us to donate funds for missions and the good works of the church, but we do not see ourselves worthy of further involvement. Remind us of your forgiving love, when we stubbornly refuse to believe your claim on our lives. Open our eyes and spirits to see the gifts with which you have blessed us, and to commit those gifts to serving you by serving others. There are so many things that we can do. And everything starts with prayer. So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray, asking for your wisdom in our lives. Give us

courage and strength to accomplish any task that you set before us. And give us hearts of grateful love to acknowledge your presence in our lives, and live that presence with great joy. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Praise God, Sing Gloria!

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE I Samuel 3:1-10

ANTHEM *Psalm 139* Allen Pote

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

HYMN *Let Us With a Joyful Mind* (vss. 1,2,3,6) NCH #16

THE MESSAGE

CALL TO PRAYER In Solitude (vss. 1,4) NCH #521

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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Stars Are for Those Who Lift Their Eyes*
Pauline Delmonte

+DOXOLOGY Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High
Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *Great Is Your Faithfulness* NCH #423

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* arr. Sheldon Curry

POSTLUDE *Dix* Craig Phillips

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 Fenella “Penny” Tongco Reyes Seichter by Jim Seichter.

Serving the church today: David Wells, Liturgist; Bob Blakeslee, Bob Westervelt, John Lenox, Bill Zemina, Ushers; Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The Open and Affirming Team invites you to a showing of ***Fish Out of Water***, a film explaining what the Bible really says about being gay. The movie will be shown TODAY in Congregational Hall after the service. A light lunch will be served to those viewing the movie.

You are invited to a special coffee hour next Sunday, January 21, following the 10:00 am service. **We will be celebrating God’s Love, Light, and Gift of Community.**

Want to Give Someone the Warm Fuzzies? Share something warm and cozy by donating new/gently used winter accessories - hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves. Items are needed for adults. **Drive-Thru Collection will take place Saturday, January 27.** Please note, this substitutes for the usual third Saturday Mission. This month’s Mission is being coordinated by Erica Haddad and Boy Scout Troop 5. All donations will be given to the Wallingford Emergency Shelter.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Faith Formation Coordinator