

In Our Prayers

Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)** Bob Blakeslee, recovering from surgery**Jill as she begins a new medical trial**Those impacted by nature's fury**Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavare 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)**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 Manuel 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



Second Sunday After Epiphany Sunday January 21, 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *Houston* Rebecca Groom Te Velde
 Au Bord de L'Eau Gabriel Faure/ arr. Martin Setchell

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Psalm 139* Allen Pote
 Debbie Clark, recorder Jeanette Gross, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The heavens shout of God’s glory!
P: There is so much beauty in this earth and in the heavens!
L: Day by day we are reminded of God’s creative love.
P: Day by day we are blessed with large and small visions of God’s glory.
L: Come, let us praise the God of creation.
P: Let us sing and shout our praises of thanksgiving and joy to God. AMEN.

+HYMN *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped* NCH #22

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Holy Fountain of Forgiveness, the tale of Jonah reminds us of your never-ending love for all creation. May we be like the people of Nineveh, who were able to acknowledge their sin and open their eyes to your healing presence. Though you stand ready to forgive our sin, we find it easier to bite our tongues, clench our fists, and cling to our hurts and resentments rather than let you open our hearts. We trust you, Holy One; we pour out our hearts to you. Receive the pain that lurks in our humanity, as we offer up what we have hidden from ourselves and from the world— those words and deeds that keep us separated from your love. Help us to turn around knowing you are there. Amen.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Jonah 3:1-5, 10

ANTHEM *Standin’ in the Need of Prayer* arr. Valerie Stephenson
 Handbell Choir

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE Mark 1:14-20

THE MESSAGE Oh Jonah - Not Another Fish Story!

HYMN *O Savior Let Me Walk With You* NCH #503

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 *Hunger Cries* John D. Horman

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

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN *Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult* NCH #172

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* arr. Sheldon Curry

POSTLUDE *Christe sanctorum* 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 honor of Katelyn Westervelt’s 26th birthday from Bob, Lorraine, and Chris Westervelt.

Serving the church today (8:00) Charmaine Craggs (10:00) Lois Doherty, Steve & Cathy Knight, Bruce & Katherine Ollodart, Ushers; Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

Join us for a very special coffee hour this morning 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 next Saturday, January 27** 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.

Did you know Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day this year? We have the opportunity to combine the two observances as we share a **Love Feast, Worship and receive the traditional Anointing with Oil.** The Feast will begin at 6:30 and will include a light supper as we celebrate the Agape Meal. Reservations are requested. If you would be a part of the team to help set-up, cook, or serve this simple Agape meal, please speak to Pastor Meredith for more information.

We look forward to welcoming new members into the life of the church in April. Two classes will be held to prepare for membership. If you would like to learn more to prepare for membership, speak to or email Pastor Meredith at pastormeredith@firstchurchwld.org

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