

In Our Prayers

Steve Knight, recovering from surgery**Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes**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

23 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

Church telephone: (203) 265-1691

Church Office Hours: Tues.– Fri. - 9:00am – 2:00pm

Email: officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org (office)

pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org (pastor)

gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music)

Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



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.

Portions of the service have been reprinted by permission of

The Pilgrim Press from the Pilgrim Hymnal © 1958 and

The New Century Hymnal ©1995.

All rights reserved. Printed under One License.net A-718386.

CCLI License No.3108192

First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany Sunday

January 28, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE	<i>Crusader’s Hymn / St. Elizabeth</i>	A.D. Miller
	<i>Greensleeves Aria</i>	James Biery
	<i>Au Bord de L’Eau</i>	Gabriel Faure/ arr. Martin Setchell

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC	<i>Here I Am Lord</i>
	Dan Schutte / arr. Marianne Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Praise the Lord!
P: We give thanks to God with all our heart.
L: The works of the Lord are great and marvelous in our eyes.
P: We delight in God’s works and sing praises to God’s name.
L: The Lord feeds the faithful, and watches over those who observe the commandments.
P: God’s covenant is a blessing. God’s precepts are righteous and just.
L: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
P: Let us worship God and be counted among the wise.

+HYMN	<i>Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise</i>	NCH #1
-------	--	--------

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

We think we know so much, O God, and with our meager knowledge we presume to judge others. We arrogantly announce our own righteousness without a compassionate thought. We proclaim your word when it suits us and often only to those with whom we want to associate. We shut others out because of our faulty judgment and our blindness. There have been so many times in which our humble help would have been a blessing to someone, but

we have placed our comforts before serving others. In the competing voices of today’s world, we have turned around and around, trying to find the way to live. Help us, merciful God, to again listen to you. Help us to truly open our hearts to you. Remind us again of your great love and presence in our lives. Forgive us our foolishness and our stubbornness. Create in us new spirits, filled with your love, offering peace and hope to all. In Jesus’ Name we pray. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Psalm 111

ANTHEM	Living Water, Guiding Spirit	Joseph M. Martin
--------	------------------------------	------------------

THE MESSAGE	Fear, But Don’t Be Afraid
-------------	---------------------------

CALL TO PRAYER	<i>Sweet Hour of Prayer</i>	NCH #505
----------------	-----------------------------	----------

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	<i>God Has Work for Us to Do</i>	Mark A. Miller
-----------	----------------------------------	----------------

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

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN	God of Grace and God of Glory (vss. 1,3,5)	NCH #436
-------	--	----------

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE	<i>O Savior, Let Me Walk with You</i>	Tune: MARYTON
----------	---------------------------------------	---------------

POSTLUDE	<i>Deo gracias</i>	Mary Beth Bennett
----------	--------------------	-------------------

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 THE BIRTH OF Luca Patrick, born 1/19/24, and the proud parents, Steven and Brista Colandrea, by his proud grandmother, Marilyn Colandrea.

Serving the church today: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Ushers; Bernie Annunziata, Chimes.

The Search and Call Team for the next Settled Pastor has been named! Come next Sunday, February 4, to meet the team and offer your blessing as we Commission them to this ministry.

A new fund raiser is planned for Lent! **Homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Easter Eggs** will be created and sold to benefit the ministries of the church! To volunteer to help with this fun and delicious project, speak to Pastor Meredith. We will need candy makers, wrappers, sales, publicity, supply procurement, and planners....

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 on April 28. Two one-hour 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@firstchurchwlfld.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