

In Our Prayers

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.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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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.

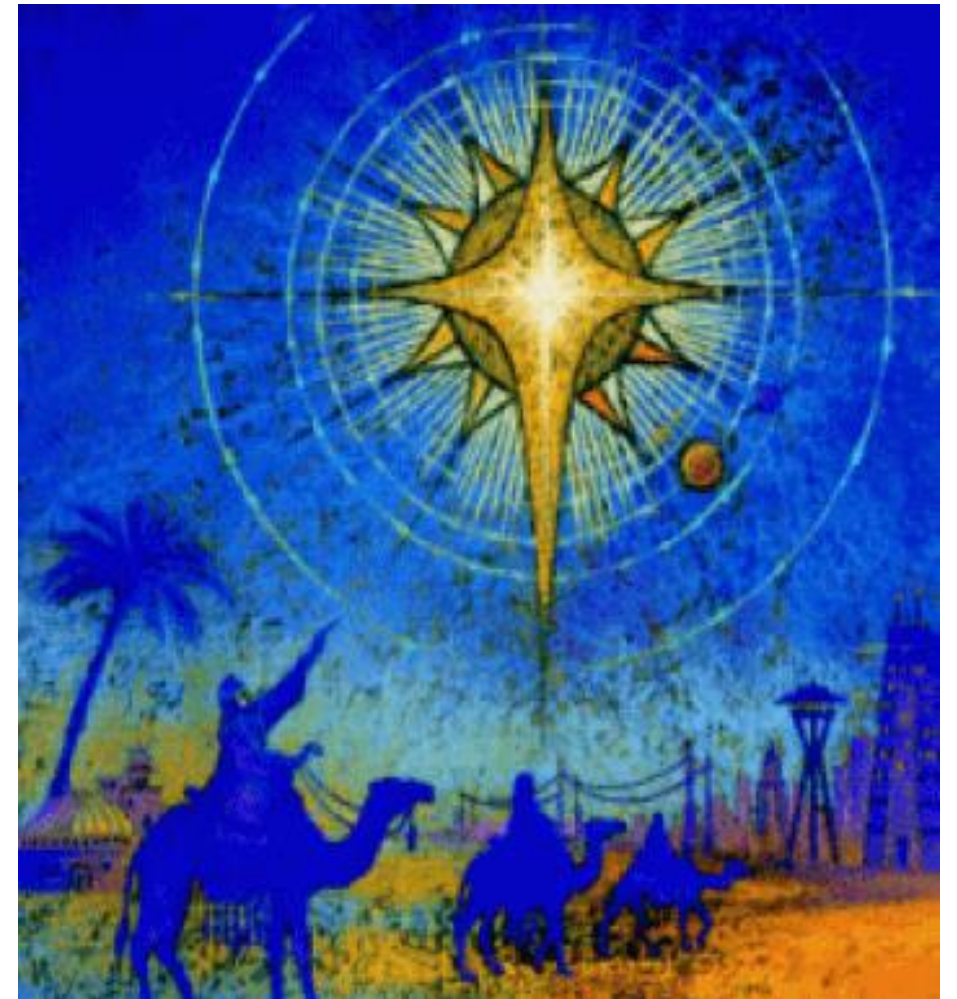
We commit to developing a nurturing environment where all are loved, valued, and inspired to meaningful participation in the life of the church. Through our Christian faith, compassion, and service, we will dedicate ourselves to making a positive impact on the lives of people in our community and beyond.

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First Congregational Church Wallingford, CT



Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024

**Arise! Shine! For Our Light
Has Come!**

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 7, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*
Tune by: Phillip Nicolai/arr. David Cherwien
How Brightly Shines the Morning Star, Op. 65 No. 44
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Star of Bethlehem* from Home Alone
John Williams/arr. Phillip Keveren

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!
P: Gloom has been banished!
L: God's light of hope floods the earth
P: God's light comes to us all.
L: Lord, make us ready to journey toward this Light.
P: Prepare our hearts to receive this Light. AMEN.

+HYMN *The First Nowell* (Vss. 1,3,4,5) NCH #139

CALL TO REFLECTION

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Lord of living light, we hear the story of the Magi and tie it together with our warm Christmas celebration. It feels comfortable to us. Break those bonds of comfort and help us to realize the risk of witness and discipleship for those who follow your light. Shine brightly in us and through us. Forgive the blindness we so often offer to you. Give us vision of what you would have us be and do in the Light of Your Love. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM *A Star Rising in the East* Pepper Choplin

THE COMMUNION

This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome! You will receive the bread first and then the juice, please hold each until all are served, so that we might partake together.

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.**

READING FSROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-6
(Pew Bible OT p. 707)

HYMN *We Three Kings of Orient Are* PGM #143

A PASTIORAL REFLECTION

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*
Adger M. Page & R. Risher Boyce/arr. Sheldon Curry

+DOXOLOGY (melody: Angels from the Realms of Glory)

**All creation, join in praising
God Creator, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voice is raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RECEIVING OUR STAR GIFTS

+HYMN *Sing a Different Song* NCH #150

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *O Star of Wonder* (Refrain from We Three Kings)
CHL # 121

POSTLUDE *In dulci jubilo* J.S. Bach

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 Fiona Pope by the Pope Family.

Serving the church today: (8:00) Charmaine Craggs and Louise Zemina, Greeters; (10:00) Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse, Ushers; Bob Westervelt, Debbie Voelker, Sacramental Ministers; Russ Hinckley, Chimes.

Today we celebrate **Epiphany Sunday**, the arrival of the Wise Men. You will receive your **Star Gift Epiphany Word**, a word to guide you on your spiritual journey in 2024!

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. Please join us on Sunday, January 14th in Congregational Hall after the 10:00 service. While drop-ins are always welcome, we ask that you RSVP as a light lunch will be served. There will be a sign-up sheet at the ONA table in Congregational Hall, or you can email us at ONA.FCCW@gmail.com, or call the church office at 203-265-1691. Hope to see you there.

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 both children and 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