



Welcome Pastor Jeff!!

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



January 4, 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
NCH = New Century Hymnal (Black)
PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (Red)

PRELUDE *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*
Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME Pastor Jeff

CENTERING MUSIC *Somewhere in My Memory*
John Williams/arr Phillip Keveren

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as people looking for a sign that God is at work in the world.

God, help us find your glory.

We gather as people listening for the whispers of the Spirit, hints of the good news in the least likely places.

God, help us notice your glory.

We gather as people yearning for Love’s presence, the assurance that we are not alone and Love will have the last word.

God, help us encounter your glory.

In this new season, may the Light of Love shine among us, revealing divine glory through neighbors known and unknown, vulnerable children, and unexpected gifts.

God, reveal to us anew the glory of your expansive Love that gathers us together and sustains us in loving service to one another and all creation. Amen.

+HYMN *What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright* PH #144

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Holy One, a new year invites us to begin again. As we reflect on the future, we ask that your grace would meet us as we strive to be the people you have called us to be. Help us to heal spiritually, emotionally, relationally, materially, physically, and financially. Strengthen us and reorient our expectations of ourselves and one another. Give us courage to be true to our faith and values. Remind us that we carry no burden that you do not share with us. Shine your radiance through us. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

PASSING OF THE PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you!

ANTHEM *God’s Love Made Visible!* Iola and Dave Brubeck

READING FROM SCRIPTURE John 1:1-18

THE MESSAGE. “The Word, The Son, and The Light”
Pastor Jeff

HYMN. *This Is a Day of New Beginnings*
(*alt 4th verse) NCH# 417

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *I Wonder as I Wander* John Niles

+DOXOLOGY NCH #779

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter;
One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN Let us break Bread Together NCH #330

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

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**

+HYMN. *I Am the Light of the World* NCH #584

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Born in the Night Mary’s Child vv. 1-2* NCH#152

POSTLUDE *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen* John Rutter

Announcements

Welcome to the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ! No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Please join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs in Congregational Hall immediately following the service.

Serving the church today are ushers: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar & Greg Whitehouse; chimes: Debbie Clark; Sacramental Ministers: Tina Caldwell, Lori Folk-Barron, Holly Francke & Sarah Mather.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of Kathryn Hally, Teresa Farrell, and Joan Lee, Ben Hally’s Great-great grandmother and aunts, by Jen and Ben Hally.

Discover Scotland Travel Presentation: Thursday, January 8, 6:00 p.m. in Congregational Hall there will be a Collette representative outlining the details of 10-day trip to Scotland, September 14 – 23, 2026 sponsored by our church.

First Church Star Ball: You are invited to attend this very special ending to the celebration of our 350th Anniversary Year. Saturday, January 10th 6:30-10:30pm at the Elks Club. Tickets will be available after church for \$35 and \$40 at the door.

Debrief the Christmas Fair Meeting: Everyone with a thought or idea is encouraged to join us Sunday, January 11 after church at the crafting tables.

Warm and Cozy Drive: January 17 Collecting hats, gloves, etc.

January 27 Book Club: My Friends by Frederick Bachman

The Rev. Jeff Birch, Minister
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music.
Search in Process, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton
Search in Process, Director of Sunday School and Youth Ministries