

At the First Congregational Church, UCC of Wallingford, CT, we have discerned the following vision and mission for our faith lives together:

## <u>Vision</u>

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.





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@firstchurchwlfd.org (office) pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfd.org (pastor) gross7jeanette1@gmail.com (Minister of Music) Website: www.firstchurchwallingford.org



To make a gift to First Church

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
> Dawn Charron,

# SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

# First Congregational Church Walling ford, CT



# July 20, 2025

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

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

PRELUDE What a Friend We Have in Jesus CONVERSE/ARR. Jack Schrader

## WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC Jesus Loves Me Anna Warner/arr. Greg Howlett

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In the presence of the faithful, we proclaim the name of God, for it is good.

We thank you forever because of what you have done.

Holy One, we trust in you. We take refuge in your safety. We call your presence our home.

We are like olive trees rooted in your soil-growing and fruitful. You nourish us and shine your light upon us.

Faithful God, in you, we find love and truth, abundance and compassion, community and care. We praise and exalt you, Eternal One. We trust in your steadfast love forever and ever.

+HYMN NCH # 592 God of the Ages

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Gracious God, evil surrounds us and entices us to join in its ways, of matching energy and returning evil for evil, of seeking the comfortable and convenient way over the common good, of turning from pain and despair rather than leaning into solidarity and support. Help us, O God, to choose the path you have paved and give us strength to journey into rough spaces. Surround us with hosts of righteousness and infuse us with peace that surpasses understanding as we serve as agents and ambassadors of your kindom. As you continually

make all things new, fill us with the joy of new life. Amen.

## SILENT REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

DUET Jessie and Mollie DePonte

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE Amos 8:1-12

THE MESSAGE Famine, Fasting, and Feasting

HYMN Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God CHL #

## 354

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

## CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY Friedman

Jessie DePonte, solo

We Can Be Kind

David

NCH #779

+DOXOLOGY

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       | All Who Love and Serve Your City | CHL # |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 670        |                                  |       |
| COMMISSION | AND BENEDICTION                  |       |

RESPONSE It is Well with My Soul st.3 NCH #438

Serving the church today: Tony Annunziata, Ann Gygax, Russ Hinckley, Bernice Annunziata, Ushers. Deanna Holloway, Liturgist. Rick Voelker, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in celebration of Benjamin Hally by his mother, Jen Hally.

Summer Sunday School presents Walking on Water: The Miracles and Mysteries of the Bible. Join us on July 20 & 27.

Mission Trip 2025 Scranton, July 20-26, FCCW participants are Sam Haddad, Erica Haddad and Lorraine Westervelt. In a world filled with pressure from school, social media, and division, this year's theme, "Illuminate," invites them to discover Jesus as the unstoppable Light (John 1:1-18). His Light brings clarity, purpose, and hope-shining through every challenge and never fading. As we explore what it means to carry that Light, we'll see that faith isn't just something we do-it's who we are. Please keep their work in your prayers.

The ONA Team invites you to read a book focused on autism this summer and join us to discuss it on Thursday August 21st at 6:30 pm. Snacks will be provided. We are reading A Little Less Broken: How an Autism Diagnosis Finally Made Me Whole by Marian Schembari. See you there.

POSTLUDE

## Let All Things Now Living ASH GROVE/arr. Lloyd Larson

### Announcements

Summer Craft Workshops Please have a refreshment after church and join us for craft workshops in Congregation Hall as we prepare for our Christmas Fair. Materials and instruction will be provided. Your ideas are welcome.

> Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Pastor Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music. Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager Mr. Tony Annunziata, Sexton Ms. Madison Torre, Coordinator of Sunday School and Youth Ministries