



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



June 1, 2025
Ascension Sunday
Pride Sunday
Generosity Sunday

June1, 2025
ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

PRELUDE *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* Marianne Kim

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Lead, Kindly Light* Marianne Kim

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why do you look upward?
Our Lord has been taken away into heaven.
Look around you. What do you see?
There are so many places where the love of God is needed.
Look beyond you. Where will you go?
Christ calls to go into the world, bringing God’s healing love to all. AMEN.

+HYMN Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing NCH #303

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Creating God—God of Mercy, As we have acknowledged the diversity in this amazing world, created in atoms and molecules but with an underlying spirit of mystery, we must also admit that, at times, we have forgotten of the wonders of that diversity. We have longed for things to be familiar and as they have always been. We know that the great religious traditions have caused harm in the past and continue to cause harm and pain to those who express their being in ways different than the majority. We know, too, that we individually, both intentionally and unintentionally, have rejected and shunned those who are not like us. For this we are truly sorry and ask your patience as we learn and strive for ways to be more inclusive and celebrate all in this wondrous world. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ANTHEM *How Beautiful* Twila Paris/arr. Craig Courtney

LESSON FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

MESSAGE

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Within Us Flows a River* Mark Miller

+DOXOLOGY Take My Gifts NCH #562

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious and loving God, give her of all that is good and true and beautiful and life giving, these pledge cards represent our sweat; they represent our lives; they represent our dreams. The pledges which we make on them are but tokens of the awesome gifts that have been given to us and they are pledged in thanksgiving for all we have received, for all we have been inspired to be, for all we are challenged to become, in this place. May they be the first fruits of all we have and not what we have leftover, so that we may live out as closely as possible how you give to us. May we see them as our offering to you, sacred, holy, yet earthly, filled with possibilities. May we hold this image in our hearts and minds so as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of the offering, as living sacrifices to you. Amen.

+HYMN Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether NCH # 337

THE COMMUNION

This is the Table of the Lord and all who wish to receive here are welcome. We receive first the bread and then the juice. Please hold each until all are served so we might partake together. Rice cakes and water are offered for those who prefer.

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 God of Change and Glory NCH #177

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *We Walk in Love* Deanna Witkowski

POSTLUDE *Once to Every Man and Nation* Marianne Kim

Announcements

Serving the church today: Matt Bushey, Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Deanna Holloway Ushers. Leslie Spiars, Liturgist. Debbie Clark, Chimes.

The flowers on the altar are given in memory of our parents and grandparents by the Jay Mather family.

Today we celebrate many things – Christ’s Ascension, Pride Sunday, Generosity Sunday, and Communion. A feast of faith!

Do you want to help our native bees and butterflies? Today, June 1, at 11:30 in Congregational Hall, our own Nancy Tipping will be presenting a talk called **“Bring Back the Pollinators.”** Come and learn what simple things you can do in your own yard to help pollinators, and the earth this year.

Next Sunday, June 8, following worship, is our **Annual Meeting.** Stay for lunch, building of community, and to be a part of making important decisions about the church’s future.

Scholarship Sunday is June 15. Come celebrate our graduating high school seniors and make your own Ice Cream Sunday after Church!

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