

In Our Prayers

Gladys Wells (David Wells mother)**Alexander Karacsonyi, recovering from surgery;**The family of Barbara Peters**Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family)**Morgan Bau and family mourning the death of Morgan's father** Harold Chick**A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Ann Hebert (Lori Fast-Minkema's friend)** Charmaine Craggs** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)** Pam Savanelli** Hayden Steinhilper (serving our country)** Kimberly Eames-Burgett (friend of Lori Folk Barron)**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 Brod (Sandy Week's sister)** Matthew Lopilato (Amando Nesto's cousin)** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Kyle Denson (friend of Kristen Hinckley)**Peter Fradiani and Tom Fedora (friends of Megan Perkowski)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman** Pamela Lyons (Megan Perkowski's aunt)** 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**Those whose lives have been affected by Covid**For an end to violence**For those in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquake.



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.



The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

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The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

Youth in Mission – Going to Serve

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"
Johann Gottfried Walther

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"
arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

All: Remember that our God is the only God—the One Who made us, the One who sustains us, the One whose Spirit lives within us.

One: Let us enter God's house with thanksgiving; and come into God's presence with praise.

All: For God is good, with unfailing love that lasts forever, and faithfulness that extends to generations.

+HYMN "Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed" NCH #537

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Marvelous and merciful God, Your Son modeled leadership and servanthood for us. But we confess we have elevated our desires and plans over Your will for our lives and for Your world. We want authority and power over others to use for our own purposes. Forgive us for our half-hearted devotion and our double-minded attention to Your way. Remind us You desire servants first and foremost. Enable us to serve in the name of Jesus, the One who came to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. In His name we pray. Amen.

CLEARING OUR CONSCIENCE WITH GOD

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN - "Stinky Pants"

LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE - Psalm 100
(Pew Bible OT p. 562)

ANTHEM "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
arr. Bruce Greer / Jen Wood, clarinet

LESSON FROM THE CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE - Romans 12:1-21
(Pew Bible NT p. 154)

+HYMN "10,000 Reasons" (Bless the Lord)
Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O my soul, worship His holy Name,
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy Name.**

THE MESSAGE "Youth With a Mission"
A Celebration of Mission Trip 2022
Callie Shindler and Hayden Bau, 2022 Campers

CALL TO PRAYER - "Spirit of the Living God" NCH #283

PRAYERS OF GOD'S 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.

INVITATION TO BLESS OTHERS

OFFERTORY MUSIC "Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping"
Wayfaring Stranger setting, Brenda Portman

+THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit evermore, one God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN - "Called As Partners" NCH #495

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE - "Be Still and Know" *The Iona Community*

POSTLUDE- "Psalm XIX" *Benedetto Marcello*

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 Martha Gilben Schofield, my mother, by Marilyn Colandrea.

Serving the church today are: Steve Knight, Liturgist; Roy Cannon, Louise Zemina and Kathy Filkins, Ushers; Ken Stevens, (8:00), Matt Bushey and David Wells (10:00), Deacons; and Debbie Clark, Chimes. Musicians this morning are the Handbell Choir under the direction of Jeanette Gross. Thank you! We also offer thanks to those who prepared and served coffee hour!

Today we are celebrating our Youth in Mission. Learn more about last year's trip to Erie, PA and learn about this summer's trip to Hazlett, NJ. A special time of food, fellowship, and singing will take place following the service. Thanks to Leslie Spiers for all her leadership with our youth on Mission Trips past, and Lorraine Westervelt for taking the lead in coordinating this summer's trip. Thanks to Lorraine for this morning's slide show and Callie Shindler and Hayden Bau for sharing their mission reflections.

Do you need a NAME TAG? Name tags help us to get to know one another better. If you have one, please wear yours and return it at the end of the service or coffee hour. If you need one, email Maureen, our Office Manager, indicating the name you would like on your name tag, or leave a note in the offering plate making your request.

Today is the last day to order your Butter Braids with delivery in time for Easter. The Youth of First Church will be selling Butter Braids (\$15) and Cookie Dough (\$20) as a fund raiser for their Mission Trip to Hazlet, NJ in July.

Jesus Christ Superstar is 50! First Church will be attending this amazing and moving musical on April 22 at 2 PM at the Schubert Theater in New Haven. Orchestra seats are \$90 and Mezzanine \$71. Contact Pastor Meredith or Jeanette Gross to make your reservation **TODAY**.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Jeffers, Interim Minister
Dr. Jeanette Gross, Minister of Music
Ms. Maureen Czentnar, Office Manager
Mr. Tony Annunziata, Church Sexton
Ms. Kayla Perkowski, Sunday School Coordinator