



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@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.

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

First Congregational Church



March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent
Rest and Growth

March 23, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit
NCH - New Century Hymnal (Black)
PGM – Pilgrim Hymnal – (Red)

PRELUDE *Meditation: Love Unknown* Francis Jackson

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Choral Prelude: Abridge* CS Lang

CALL TO WORSHIP

Worship is a place to rest.
We breathe deeply here.
We still our aching bones.
We sit in the quiet.
We surround ourselves with music.
Worship is a place to rest.
Worship is a place to grow.
We listen for God’s word.
We invite it to challenge us.
We lean in with curiosity.
We ask questions.
Worship is a place to grow.

So come into this space.
Come rest and grow here.
For where two or more are gathered,
God is always there.
Let us worship our gracious God.

+HYMN For the Fruit of All Creation (insert) CHL #714

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, There are days when we fail to rest. We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest. There are also days when we fail

to act. We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction. God, forgive our imbalance. Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE Maddie Torre

ANTHEM *Come to Me* Michael Joncas

A READING Luke 13:6-9

MESSAGE Rest and Growth

+HYMN For the Fruit of All Creation NCH #425

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 *In the Bulb There Is A Flower*
Natalie Sleeth

+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 Come to Tend God’s Garden NCH #586

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE *Come to Me* (refrain) Michael Joncas

POSTLUDE Toccata: Aberystwyth David Bednall

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 Joan Lee and Jeanne Reed by Jennifer and Benjamin Hally.

Serving the church today: Roy Canon, Kathy Filkins, Rick Voelker and Louise Zemina, Ushers. Debbie Clark, Chimes.

ONA Undies Drive The ONA Team is sponsoring a collection for people transitioning who need clothing. Items requested include new boxer shorts, boxer briefs and bras of any size. Store gift cards or monetary donations will gladly be accepted, and ONA will shop for you. Please drop off your items at the rear of the church on Saturday, March 29th from 9:00 am to 11:00am.

You are invited to a very special 350th Event, a **Tea Party, Sunday, March 30 at 11:30 am** in Congregational Hall. The afternoon will include tea, delectable delights, conversation, a display of wedding dresses from the last 100 years, and a presentation from the Wallingford Historical Society. Space is limited. Please RSVP to the church office at (203) 265-1691 to reserve your seat.

New members will be received into the church April 27. If you would like more information about joining the church as a member or associate member, speak to Pastor Meredith. (914) 255-1690

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