

In Our Prayers

Bob Kaden (having neck surgery) Lucille Blakeslee (recovering from a stroke) Those mourning the death of Fran Rice** Pastor Rich (cancer)** Andrew (brain cancer)** Friends of Cynthia Bruestche** Keith Charron (kidney failure)** Fred Merrow (Dawn Charron's brother-in-law)** Michael May, recovering from a hit and run** Healing for Justin Weekes, son of Sandy Weekes** Butch Ziacks (dear friend of Bob Blakeslee)** Those impacted by nature's fury** Joseph Tavares (cousin of Pam Tavares Savanelli)** Deborah Masella (new cancer diagnosis)** Tina Caldwell** Kim Baldwin (Lori Folk-Barron's friend)** Diane Geiss** Sally Coleman** Amanda Otfinoski, victim of a hit and run** Megan Perkowski** Cousin Jean Farrell and Aunt Joyce Gorsky (the McKenna Family)** A Friend Diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer** Mark and Lynn Bailey (friends of John and Sherry Perkowski)** Tim Keogh** Charmaine Craggs** Ashley Sibley (Bernie and Tony's great-niece)** 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, sister of Sandy Weekes** Cathy Kovi** Holly Arce (Daughter-in-law of Manuel Arce and Deborah Sinon)** Sandy McCume** Betsy-Sue Eisenman** Anne Stevens (Ken's mother)** Janice Frey** David Lick** Beverly Lastig** Those around the world who live in areas of conflict and war.



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 uplift 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 Wallingford, CT



Easter
March 31, 2024

EASTER
March 31, 2024
ORDER OF WORSHIP

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*
Georg Frideric Handel/Stephen DeCesare
Erin Vivero, flute Jeanette Gross, piano

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *River Flows in You*
YIRUMA
Erin Vivero, flute / Jeanette Gross, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen, indeed!

L: Let all the earth proclaim the joy!

P: Let all heaven show forth in praise.

L: Alleluia!

P: Alleluia!

+HYMN Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain

NCH #230

CALL TO PRAYER

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our successes and our growing understanding of your love; and you have mourned our failures and rejections of your healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become “Easter People”, people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was thought to be impossible has been conquered. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become the disciples that you need to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

MOMENT OF QUIET PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Risen Alleluia!*
Allen Pote

LESSON FROM SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18

MESSAGE

+HYMN I Come to the Garden Alone

NCH #237

PRAYERS OF THE 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.

CALL TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY *Concertato on “Thine is the Glory”*
Robert J. Powell

+DOXOLOGY

NCH #780

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN Christ the Lord is Risen Today NCH
#233

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *“Hallelujah” Chorus* Georg
Frideric Handel
Directed by Kathy Wallace

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Symphony No.5 in F Minor*
Charles-Marie Widor

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 by Kathy Wallace to wish everyone a Happy Easter! Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Serving the church today: Michael May, Heidi Bonassar, Greg Whitehouse: Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

Musicians participating in this morning’s service are The Chancel Choir, Erin Vivero (flute), Kathy Wallace, and Jen Wood (clarinet).

We are the Church Together! Immediately following the service we will be taking a church photo to be used in our Church Profile to introduce our church to candidates for the Settled Pastor position. After the photo, stay for a cookie or two and greet old friends and new.

Next Sunday, April 7, we will be revisiting our relationship with **Bawa**, a ministry we have long supported in Cameroon. Hear about the current successes and challenges and be inspired with the good work happening there.

We look forward to **Welcoming New Members** into the life of the church on April 28. Two one-hour classes will be held to prepare for membership. If you would like to learn more to prepare for membership, speak to or email Pastor Meredith at pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org

In preparation for the new Settled Pastor, we are updating our **Directory**. Please fill out the form in your bulletin, seek one from an usher, or fill out via the QR Code below or link that is found in the Spire.

Give yourself the gift of a fantastic Renewal Weekend with Footsteps in the Sand. Info: footsteps-sand.org or Bob and Lorraine Westervelt. Women’s Weekend May 31-June 2, 2024. Men’s Weekend June 7-9, 2024.



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