



# First Congregational 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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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](mailto:officemanager@firstchurchwlfld.org) (office)  
[pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org](mailto:pastormeredith@firstchurchwlfld.org) (pastor)  
[gross7jeanette1@gmail.com](mailto:gross7jeanette1@gmail.com) (Minister of Music)  
Website: [www.firstchurchwallingford.org](http://www.firstchurchwallingford.org)



To make a gift to First Church

**March 9, 2025**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Stranger and Neighbor**

**March 9, 2025**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

NCH - New Century Hymnal (Black)

PGM – Pilgrim Hymnal – (Red)

PRELUDE *Dyptich* Brenda Portman

*Organ Variations on “Foundation”*

Gilbert Martin

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC *Adagio in C Minor* Miriam Revelry

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**Who is my neighbor?**

**How can I help?**

**What do I have to learn?**

**Where is God in it all?**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**So may we listen.**

**May we learn.**

**May we stay curious, and may we look for God.**

This is our invitation to lean in.

**Let us worship our holy God.**

+HYMN God is Here! As We Your People Meet NCH #70

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.**

SILENT REFLECTION

WORDS OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

ANTHEM *Hunger Cries* John D. Horman

A READING Luke 10:25-37

MESSAGE Stranger, Neighbor, Friend

+HYMN They Asked, “Who is My Neighbor?” NCH #541

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 *Jesus, Savior, Blessed Friend*  
Deborah Governor

+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 When Our Confidence is Shaken (insert)

+COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE *Go Now in Peace*  
Natalie Sleeth

POSTLUDE *Recessional*  
Fanny Mendelssohn

**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 by Marilyn Colandrea.

**Serving the church today:** Matt Bushey Jay Mather, Cheryl Naski, Deanna Holloway, Ushers. Bob Westervelt, Chimes.

A new **Bible Study, The Lord of Psalm 23 – Jesus Our Shepherd, Companion, and Host** by David Gibson will begin Tuesday, March 11, at 6 pm in the Guild Room. Books are \$12. The study will be led by the Rev. Dr. Charlene Bruce. All are welcome.

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 this Spring. 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